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Santos resolution backs Manglona's re-nomination. PAGE 3

Council calls for study on status of Chamorros in the CNMI. PAGE 7

75¢

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www.saipantribune.com
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NEW VACCINATION SITE

A Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. staff inoculates the 30th person to receive the Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccine at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. The Multi-Purpose Center will be used as a vaccination site to accommodate residents in the southern part of Saipan.

JUSTINE NAUTA

IN EEOC SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWSUIT

IPI to pay \$105K to settle case

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has agreed to pay \$105,000 to settle the sexual harassment lawsuit the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed against it in September 2019.

See IPI on Page 4

USCIS agrees to process rejected LTR applications

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to give it 90 days to respond to the lawsuit filed by nine long-term resident applicants whose initial applications USCIS had rejected. The extension

will give USCIS enough time to process the nine applications once more.



Pixley

According to court documents, USCIS is requesting to get a three-month extension, on or before Aug. 2, to file a response to the nine long-term residents' complaint against them. This extension will al-

See USCIS on Page 4

'State of emergency renewals very concerning'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) finds it "very concerning" that the executive order declaring a state of emergency

due to the COVID-19 pandemic has been renewed every month for over a year now, particularly since this grants the Finance secretary unlimited reprogramming authority.

At a House session last Fri-

day, Babauta said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' executive order is also a renewal of unlimited reprogramming authority and this has been going on for over a year now.

See STATE on Page 4

CDC says many Americans can now go outside without a mask

NEW YORK (AP)—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eased its

guidelines Tuesday on the wearing of masks outdoors, saying fully vaccinated Amer-

icans don't need to cover their faces anymore unless they are in a big crowd of strangers.

And those who are unvaccinated can go outside without masks in some situations, too.

See CDC on Page 4



AP

Masked and unmasked pedestrians walk across Las Vegas Boulevard, Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Las Vegas.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, April 28, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	18,954
Fully Vaccinated:	15,890
Moderna	
Initiated:	2,986
Fully Vaccinated:	2,265
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	49

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,939	12	7,951
Recovered	7,735	4	7,739
Active	64	12	76
Deaths	136	0	136
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			153,263

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	164	0	164
Traced via Travel Screening	128	0	128
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			42

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan-based musical bands received "Superior" ratings from a national panel of judges.

PAGE 2



BUSINESS

Starting May 3, Daniel's Coffee Saipan along Beach Road across TSL Plaza will offer drive-thru coffee.

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ASIA

India recorded more than 320,000 new cases of coronavirus infection in a grim surge.

PAGE 13



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Local

Saipan groups get highest marks at online music fest

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several Saipan-based musical bands received “Superior” ratings from a nationally qualified panel of U.S. judges during the National Music Festival+ and the Solo & Ensemble Virtual Festival+, which were both held online from April 8 to 10 and April 19 to 24, respectively.

Saipan’s participating music groups—the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, Mount Carmel School Wind Orchestra, Mount Carmel School Concert Band, and the Su-san Band—were joined by other music groups and by middle school and high school ensembles from across the nation at the two online festivals and all of Saipan’s participating groups received Superior evaluations, according to SP-WCB director Atsuko Eck.

“The accomplishment motivates all of us to continue our activities in the future,” Eck said.

All groups had to pre-record performances that were presented live to a panel of judges from Florida and Hawaii.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows Atsuko Eck conducting the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band at the Saipan Wind Band Festival last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Under Eck’s direction, the Saipan Pacific Winds received high marks at the fully virtual National Music Festival+ earlier this month.

From there, the judges were able to give constructive comments and their evaluations the moment the presentation ended. The five possible evaluations during the festivals were Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent, and Superior and all of Saipan’s music groups got the

highest evaluations.

Eck said they got to participate in the virtual competition after the cancellation of this year’s Tumon Bay Music Festivals in Guam due to COVID-19. She said MCS’ bands were able to participate in the 2019 and 2020 Guam festivals

in Guam, but were unable to attend this year because the festival was canceled. As a result, MCS’ band director Julian Greening searched for any online band festival or competition and discovered All National Music’s upcoming events.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows Julian Green conducting the Mount Carmel School Wind Orchestra at the Saipan Wind Band Festival last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan. Under Green’s direction, the MCS Wind Orchestra received high marks at the fully virtual National Music Festival+ earlier this month.

The events were also great opportunities for the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band and the Su-san Band, as traveling to off-island events was challenging for the two groups even before the pandemic due to finances and issues with band members’ visas.

“This was a great opportunity for us who [are] living on the island to share our perfor-

mance with people outside of the island. ...Presenting our performances [to the judges] was a nerve-racking thing, but we also have learned many things from it,” Eck said.

Eck, Greening, and their music groups are open to performing at more online music festivals in the future: “Do we [want to] do it again? Absolutely, yes!” said Eck.

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Santos resolution backs Manglona's re-nomination

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) filed yesterday a resolution expressing strong support for the re-nomination of U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, whose 10-year term is expiring this July 28.

Santos stated in the resolution that Manglona's continued dedication and commitment in upholding the U.S. Constitution and the highest standards of legal competence and ethical conduct in the rule of law has made her eminently qualified to serve another term as chief judge of the District Court.

The senator said Manglona "embodies all the characteristics of a true dignitary such



Manglona

as intelligence, humility, and commitment, with a vision that made it possible for her to make an immeasurable difference in the lives of our communities in the CNMI."

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) recently introduced House Resolution 22-8 that encourages Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to submit to President Joseph Biden their recommendation for the re-nomination of Manglona and to recognize her for her distinguished career.

In the resolution supported by several lawmakers, Demapan said this legislative body is proud to express its support for Manglona's re-nomination.

Manglona became the first person from the CNMI to be appointed to a federal judge court in 2011.

Then-governor Benigno R. Fitial recommended Manglona to President Barack Obama for nomination as chief judge

of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

In January 2011, then-president Obama nominated Man-

glona. The U.S. Senate confirmed her on July 27, 2011. She became chief judge on July 30, 2011.

Prior to her appointment, Manglona was a Superior Court associate judge. In 2002 she became the attorney gen-

eral for the CNMI.

Torres recently disclosed that he will re-nominate Manglona and that he has

no qualms supporting her re-nomination. He said he already asked his lawyer to work on that letter of support.

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<p>2014 KIA SPORTAGE LX</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$11,995</p> <p>64,625 MILES • STK: 21H025A • KBB: \$14,488</p>	<p>2015 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,995</p> <p>32,105 MILES • STK: 15P302 • KBB: \$17,754</p>	<p>2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19,995</p> <p>10,120 MILES • STK: 18HS935 • KBB: \$22,425</p>
<p>2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$13,995</p> <p>48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A • KBB: \$16,585</p>	<p>2018 NISSAN ROGUE SP AWD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17,995</p> <p>30,612 MILES • STK: 21H004A • KBB: \$18,555</p>	<p>2013 TOYOTA TACOMA SR AWD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$23,995</p> <p>130,884 MILES • STK: 3P294 • KBB: \$24,581</p>
<p>2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p> <p>39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A • KBB: \$15,830</p>	<p>2019 HYUNDAI KONA 2WD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17,995</p> <p>15,640 MILES • STK: 20M186A • KBB: \$19,721</p>	<p>2018 FORD F-150 XL</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$23,995</p> <p>38,480 MILES • STK: 18P316 • KBB: \$24,252</p>
<p>2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$14,995</p> <p>10,153 MILES • STK: 18HS905 • KBB: \$19,496</p>	<p>2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON LTD AWD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17,995</p> <p>24,118 MILES • STK: 17R256 • KBB: \$18,424</p>	<p>2018 MAZDA CX-5 GT</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$24,995</p> <p>13,105 MILES • STK: 8P293 • KBB: \$26,475</p>
<p>2017 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$15,995</p> <p>44,751 MILES • STK: 17P305 • KBB: \$17,242</p>	<p>2017 MAZDA CX-5 GT</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p> <p>45,271 MILES • STK: 20D126A • KBB: \$19,912</p>	<p>2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$26,995</p> <p>8,214 MILES • STK: 19P299 • KBB: \$28,460</p>
<p>2019 HYUNDAI KONA 2WD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,995</p> <p>11,761 MILES • STK: 19HS962 • KBB: \$18,793</p>	<p>2015 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$18,995</p> <p>62,811 MILES • STK: 5HS735A • KBB: \$19,031</p>	<p>2017 TOYOTA TACOMA SR 2WD</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$26,995</p> <p>29,786 MILES • STK: 17P315 • KBB: \$27,334</p>

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MAHAL president funds community pantry

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rene Reyes, president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs

Limited, is personally funding a Saipan community pantry hosted by MAHAL this weekend. The pantry will only welcome walk-ins and drive-ins with claim stubs.

The community pantry will take place on May 1 and 2 from 8am to noon at the Kilili Pavilion, which is the blue structure with IT&E signage across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Those wishing to claim a care package should register and claim their stub at the Kilili Pavilion on Friday, starting at 8am. Law enforcement officers will be present to supervise the event for safety purposes and the maintaining of COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"[My family and] I received additional funds, and I wanted to give back to the community," said Reyes, who is organizing the pantry with help from MAHAL but is funding the pantry by himself. With the help of volunteers, Reyes seeks to distribute over 250 care packages over the weekend containing bags of rice, canned goods, dried foods,

ramen, and other non-perishables. Reyes says some volunteers have pledged to also supply water and cases of eggs.

Reyes invites anyone wanting to volunteer or donate foodstuff this weekend to do so, but he will not accept cash donations or checks: "It's best the community receives goodies over just money, and I don't want to be seen as a money-grabber or doing this for profit. ...I want [the pantry] to be about the care packages and the community," said Reyes.

Reyes hopes to see a good volunteer turnout this weekend and to hold more Saipan community pantries in the future.

CCC hoping to get \$3.19M ARPA money to finance operation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is requesting the Torres-Palacios administration to finance CCC's personnel and operation cost in the amount of \$3.19 million using American Rescue Plan Act funding.

At CCC board's monthly meeting last Thursday, CCC acting executive director Vicente B. Babauta disclosed that the commission sent Gov. Ralph DLG Torres a letter last March 30 that conveyed their financial challenges and asks for Torres' help to finance their personnel and operation cost using ARPA money.

He said the commission received the governor's budget proposal for fiscal year 2022 for the ARPA Volume IV submission to the Legislature, in which the proposed total expenditure request for fiscal year 2022 for the commission is \$1,089.

Babauta said he believes this is the first submission under the ARPA intended to cover the budget shortfall and to bring back all government employees that are on furlough and the 80 hours work weeks.

He said CCC under the FY 2022 autonomous budget proposal Volume III listed the commission for \$3,191,060.

Under the FY 2022 Governor's

Proposal under Volume I General Fund, the Commission's budget request remains at \$1.

He said the commission remains hopeful that their request will be considered in the second submission of the governor's ARPA expenditure plan to the Legislature and the federal government.

"The commission has yet to receive a copy of the plan. The commission will continue to monitor and explore other funding options available that the commission can avail to," Babauta said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved the consent decree governing the settlement payment last Tuesday, April 27.

According to an EEOC notice of entry of consent decree, EEOC alleged that IPI subjected some female employees to "unwelcome physical and verbal sexual conduct by male patrons and engaged in sex discrimination" when they imposed extra work duties upon these female employees. EEOC said this is in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

One of the casino's VIP hostess had complained to EEOC that she faced unwanted advances and comments from male patrons and that, when she complained to her supervisors, her complaint was ignored and that she was ultimately forced to resign from her job because IPI did not do anything about her complaint.

To resolve the lawsuit, IPI and

EEOC entered into a consent decree, which requires IPI and other unnamed defendants to satisfy the following conditions:

- Provide monetary relief to the employees who experienced sexual harassment and sex discrimination.

- Forbid sexual harassment, sex discrimination, and retaliation in the future.

- Review, revise, and redistribute its [company] policies and procedures regarding sexual harassment, sex discrimination and retaliation.

- Hire an external EEO monitor and designate an in-house EEO coordinator.

- Provide training to management and employees regarding harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex and retaliation.

Although the casino is closed right now due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the consent decree requires IPI to hire an EEO coordinator once casino operations resume to enforce Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

"IPI et al. are committed to complying with federal anti-harassment

and anti-retaliation laws in all respects. They will not tolerate harassment and will not tolerate retaliation against any employee because of the filing of a charge of discrimination, giving testimony or assistance, or participation in any manner in any investigation," said EEOC.

The consent decree was also signed by IPI chief executive officer Ray Yumul, attorney Stephen Nutting, who represented IPI in the lawsuit, and EEOC attorney Anna Y. Park.

According to the consent decree, IPI secured the settlement amount with 16 parcels of its Flame Tree Terrace apartments in As Mahetog as collateral.

Saipan Tribune archives state that the EEOC sued IPI in September 2019 for alleged sexual harassment and unfair employment practices on behalf of a VIP hostess and other similarly aggrieved female employees. IPI had denied all the allegations and asked the court to dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

Two weeks ago, the parties told the court that they had reached a settlement agreement.

STATE

From Page 1

"We've been in this pandemic for over a year. Our community is getting better at responding to it," said Babauta.

This picture, she said, is further compounded by the nearly half a billion dollars from the federal government that the CNMI government is expecting to come in. Babauta said if you include all the other federal funding coming in for infrastructure education, and the stimulus, that totals to approximately \$1 billion.

"The unlimited reprogramming authority is really concerning to me, and to many members of our community, especially those who work in the Executive Branch," she said.

Torres first declared the state of public health emergency and continued significant emergency in January 2020 in a move to prevent and contain COVID-19 from spreading all over the islands.

In the latest renewal of the state of

emergency, Babauta said the renewal was signed on April 19, 2021, and that they just received it that day, Friday, April 23, 2021, and so was not on the agenda.

Babauta said that seeing this again for another renewal provoked her into thinking that they should discuss this matter, especially given the close to \$1 billion that's coming in.

Babauta said she wants to state for the record that this reprogramming authority will allow the Finance secretary to move money from any department, agency office, board, commission, corporation, instrumentality or other entity. "That is very, very high level of power, including any branch of the Commonwealth government. That's including our branch," she said.

Babauta said she supports Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez's (Ind-Saipan) decision to send this communication (emergency declaration) to the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Villagomez requested Manglona to also look into the renewal effect of this executive order because the order states that this renewal takes effect immediately and remains in effect for 30 days. However, Babauta said, there is a language in the CNMI Constitution restricting the effective date to 60 days.

"So that's something that I really would like the chairman to look into, the committee to look into," she said.

Babauta also pointed out that Sen. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) actually introduced Senate Legislative Initiative 22-03 to amend Section 10 of Article 3 of the CNMI Constitution to restrict the governor's emergency powers to within the executive branch, and not including the legislative branch, the judicial branch, and the autonomous agencies.

"And so this is something that the Senate is also, as we can see, is concerned about," she said. "And so members and colleagues, I just wanted to set for the record that the Senate supports the separation of powers in our government."

CDC

From Page 1

The new guidance represents another carefully calibrated step on the road back to normal from the coronavirus outbreak that has killed over 570,000 people in U.S.

For most of the past year, the CDC had been advising Americans to wear masks outdoors if they are within 6 feet of one another.

"Today, I hope, is a day when we can take another step back to the normalcy of before," CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said. "Over the past year, we have spent a lot of time telling Americans what you can't do.

Today, I am going to tell you some of the things you can do, if you are fully vaccinated."

The change comes as more than half of U.S. adults—or about 140 million people—have received at least one dose of vaccine, and more than a third have been fully vaccinated.

Walensky said the decision was driven by rising vaccination numbers; declines in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths; and research showing that less than 10% of documented instances of transmission of the virus happened outdoors.

Dr. Mike Saag, an infectious disease expert at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, welcomed the change.

USCIS

From Page 1

low USCIS time to process the re-filings and then negotiate to determine if the case is resolved.

The petitioners will re-file their applications under the Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act and USCIS will process the re-filings.

According to U.S. Attorney Shawn Anderson, who is representing USCIS, this is the first request for an extension. "This request is made in good faith and not for the purpose of delay. The undersigned counsel contacted the plaintiffs' counsel by email on April 28, 2021, and plaintiffs' counsel has no objections to this request," said Anderson.

In an interview with lawyer Steve Pixley, who represents the petitioners, he said they are grateful to have come to an agreement and all they ask now is for the court to allow USCIS to process the applications.

"What's going to happen is we're going to resubmit all the application packets for my clients, and USCIS agreed to basically expedite the processing of those applications," said Pixley.

In a separate email to *Saipan Tribune*, Pixley said: "My clients are very happy that after reviewing our writ of mandamus USCIS has decided to process their applications."

Between July 20, 2020 and Aug. 1, 2020, the petitioners sent their LTR applications to USCIS in Texas, and USCIS received the applications on July 30, 2020 to Aug. 3, 2020.

On Aug. 25 through Sept. 11, 2020, petitioners received a rejection from the USCIS through mail—this was their first rejection.

"The application was filed on an outdated version of this form [Form I-765]. Please resubmit your application on the current version of this form with the appropriate fees to the address listed at the bottom of this page," said USCIS. Pixley noted that this letter was dated after the Aug. 17, 2020, deadline mandated by USCIS.

Pixley said the determination of USCIS that the form I-765 was "outdated" is directly "contradicted by instructions promulgated by USCIS" stating that LTR applicants are required to use the "old edition" of form I-765 for the LTR application until Aug. 25, 2020.

The petitioners resubmitted their applications, this time using the new form I-765, between Sept. 17, 2020, and Sept. 23, 2020. Between Oct. 5, 2020, and Nov. 6, 2020, the petitioners once again received a rejection from USCIS.

In rejecting the second submission, USCIS' explanation created a situation from which the petitioners could not escape because of contradictory rules or limitations. USCIS said they will not accept any form I-955 or form I-765 for the CNMI LTR status postmarked after Aug. 17, 2020.

On Oct. 29, 2020, Pixley said the petitioners once again submitted their applications and summarized the history and explained why their applications were timely filed. These applications were received by USCIS on Nov. 2, 2020.

Three months later, USCIS refused to process the petitioners' applications. The petitioners then requested for a writ of mandamus that compels USCIS to accept and process the applications of the petitioners and further relief the District Court deems "just and proper."



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ON \$515M ARPA SPENDING PLAN

Propst urges Torres to include all 20 House members in talks

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) believes that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres should include all 20 members of the House of Representatives and not just two or three of them in the roundtable discussions on how to spend the \$515 million that is allocated to the CNMI under the American Rescue Plan Act.

At a House session last Friday, Propst urged all House

members to put political partisanship aside and have all of them sit at the table in talking about the CNMI's ARPA spending plan.

"I beg the governor to include us in a roundhouse discussion on where this funding should go," he added.

The lawmaker pointed out that Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has reached out to the Guam Senate on how to spend their ARPA funding and he finds it "deeply frustrating" that that hasn't

happened yet in the CNMI's case. He said Deleon Guerrero reached out to Sen. Jim Moylan, who put out legislation or ways that he'd like to see the funding spent.

"How many of us have a seat at the table? When has Gov. Torres ever asked us, 'Hey guys, can we meet because

we have a lot of money here. I have ideas, but I'd like to hear your ideas,'" Propst said.

The lawmaker said he himself has several ideas after meeting with his constituents. "I want a seat at the table because I want to ensure that the money is well-spent and well-invested," he said. "How

is that that not all of us want the same thing, regardless of political partisanship?"

He said they should forget about political partisanship and instead look at their responsibilities and duties and what they can do for their constituents. "I ask it from the bottom of my heart. That every single one of us, speaker, vice speaker, floor leader, colleagues, that we have a seat at the table equally. And we dis-

cuss how that money should be spent," Propst said.

He said he is aware that they have a lot of disagreements on appropriating those ARPA funds, but that they should put those aside. "Let's look at how can we convince this governor to ensure that we all have a seat at the table so that we can give input. It shouldn't be one of us, or two of us or three of us in this room. It should be all 20 of us."

PSS pays staff on time

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The \$61.7 million Stabilization Fund that the Public School System received through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, made it easier to stay on-track with paying all PSS staff, according to Board of Education chair Andrew Orsini.

He said that PSS got the \$61.7 million last Jan. 13, ensuring that PSS staff will be paid on time.

"Immediately...when we

officially received the \$61 million and when I got in as chairman, I immediately reinstated the 80 hours because of the fact that we have the means to sustain ourselves," said Orsini.

Even with the central government struggling with the economy, PSS was able to stay afloat and get back to 80 hours. As for the local funds that the central government should have been remitting to PSS, Orsini said they are still a little short but understands that the central government is struggling.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, PSS went back to 80 hours last Feb. 1. At a special board meeting last Jan. 28, BOE unanimously voted to restore the work hours of PSS employees, teachers and staff who were making 64 hours.

At that time, it was learned that only 108 PSS employees were earning 80 hours, all of them critical employees who needed to work to make sure that PSS employees get paid. These included staff at the Human Resource Department, Finance Procurement Office, and Networking Technology.

PSS has a total of 713 employees. Once all PSS em-

ployees went back to 80 hours, their total annual personnel cost went from \$30,492,945 to \$34,763,493.

According to Orsini, the proposed \$54 million budget that PSS submitted to the Legislature will fund the salaries of locally funded staff but, with the infusion of federal money, it will add a balance to "make it normal in PSS' operation."

In a previous interview with Orsini, he said the federal monies they have received—\$161 million, on top of the \$60 million they received in 2020—will carry them for the next three years. Orsini estimated that \$60 million will be used each year for a total of three years.

Sablan committee to examine CNMI's medical referral program

» Committee also wants to hear comments on proposal to transfer program to CHCC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan), who chairs the House of the Representatives' Committee on Health and Welfare, wants to review the Commonwealth's medical referral program and has scheduled public hearings on Rota, Tin-

ian, and Saipan to examine how the program may be reformed to improve services, streamline costs, and improve accountability.

The committee will receive testimonies from invited government witnesses, and welcomes oral and written comments from the public, including patients, caregivers,

healthcare providers, and other community stakeholders.


She said the committee will also accept comments on a proposal to transfer the off-island Medical Referral Program from the Governor's Office to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

On Rota, the hearing will be at the Antonio C. Atalig Library conference hall in Tatachog on May 6 at 3:30pm. Requested to be present and testify are Rota Mayor Efraim


Atalig and Rota Health Center director Vanessa Quitugua.

On Tinian, the hearing will be at the Tinian Courthouse on May 10 at 3:30pm. Requested to be present and testify are Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and Tinian Health Center director Rodney Cabarles.

On Saipan, the hearing will be at the House of Representatives chamber on May 21 at 3:30pm. Sablan said further details for the Saipan hearing will be announced shortly.



REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. Special Board Meeting – April 27, 2021
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports - Fund Status
- 4) Old Business
 - a. Office Space Lease Update - RFP-Office Space Renovation
 - b. MVA-ITB-21-2029 – Acquisition of CF Riding Mower for MVA Tinian and MVA Rota
- 5) New Business
 - a. MVA Board of Directors Election
 - b. CDBG-DR Grant
 - i. RFP – Global Branding
 - ii. RFP- MVA Japan Office
 - iii. RFP-MVA Taiwan Office
 - c. Marketing-MVA Korea
 - i. To increase funding for current contract
 - ii. To exercise option to renew for one year
 - d. Community Projects-Tourism Month Funding
- 6) Executive Session
- 7) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 8) Adjournment

/s/Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 50 1055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 FAX: (1-670) 234-5862
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-21
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than May 06, 2021.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-21."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, May 25, 2021**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.


Bids will be opened on May 25, 2021, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire(s) to operate such concessions to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/CCDF-077

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 20, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M

"(A) PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLES FOR SAIPAN (B) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR TINIAN (C) PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" FIVE-DOOR UTILITY VEHICLE FOR ROTA (CIF ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)

NMHC RFP 2021-009

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: June 1, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Consulting Services for the Preparation of Environmental Review Records"

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Services will be available on April 29, 2021 at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or by visiting the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing or email to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or submitted by facsimile to (670)234-9021 no later than 4:00 PM local time on May 14, 2021.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Council calls for a study on status of Chamorros in the CNMI

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council passed a resolution at its April 1 session that calls for a three-year comprehensive study on the status of the indigenous people of the Northern Marianas 500 years since Ferdinand Magellan stumbled upon the Marianas on March 6, 1521, up to now.

Based on the resolution, council chair Ana Demapan-Castro and vice chair Antonia Manibusan-Tudela wants to obtain comprehensive data on the status of the Chamorros in the last 500 years since colonization to decolonization of the Marianas region, specifically the CNMI, and to determine whether the promise of “a higher standard of living” for Chamorros as outlined in the 1976 Covenant with the United States has been achieved.

The resolution—Council

Commemorative Resolution 16SMC-01—urges both the CNMI and federal governments to fund this study.

The resolution is titled “To commemorate and recognize the [500th anniversary] since the accidental arrival of Ferdinand Magellan on March 6, 1521, and the arrival of the Spanish navy ship *Juan Sebastian de Elcano* on Feb. 26, 2021, in Guam, and the impact since on the Chamorro, the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands.”

The study will be spearheaded by the Northern Marianas College, the CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office, and Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement, a nonprofit indigenous organization.

This resolution stems from the recent brief visit by Spain’s navy ship *Elcano* in Guam that retraced Magellan’s “Armada

de Molucca” circumnavigation of the world in search of the Spices Islands or Molucca Islands in Indonesia 500 years ago today. The *Elcano* arrived in Guam on Feb. 26, 2021, and departed on March 2, 2021 depicting almost the same duration of stay when Magellan abruptly left the Mariana Islands on March 9, 1521.

The study shall provide the status of the Chamorros since the arrival of Magellan in the Marianas 500 years ago and provide information on Spain’s eventual occupation of the Mariana Islands for over 200 years to evangelize the Chamorros on Catholic teachings and the use of the Northern Mariana Islands as a stop-over route to the Philippines, Molucca Islands and Mexico since 1660s up until 1898. It shall also provide the status of the Chamorros during the



Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ana Demapan-Castro, left, and vice chair Antonia Manibusan-Tudela sign the resolution that calls for a comprehensive study on the status of the Chamorros in the last 500 years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

a higher standard of living for the indigenous people.

The Northern Marianas have been pushed for economic development from all the major countries in the Asia region — Japan, Korea, and China since the opening of the flood gate after the first constitutional government in January 1978.

Among the aspects that the study will look at are the status of the Chamorro’s native language at home and in schools, including educational advancement in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) careers, trade, and technical skills; their health condition; access to subsistence living; traditional gathering rights; and incarceration rates, status of available land for homestead and agriculture; and access to shorelines for sustainable fishing and harvesting.

More importantly, the study will provide policymakers a roadmap in drafting future public policies that affect the social, economic, cultural, and traditional issues to mitigate the decline in language, health, education, subsistence living and traditional gathering rights that are critical to ensure continuity of the protection, preservation, and survival of the Chamorros for generations to come. (PR)

Micronesians traveling abroad may be subject to mandatory quarantine

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia who travel to foreign jurisdictions are advised that they may be subject to mandatory quarantine.

COVID-19 testing is required 72 hours prior to travel to the United States. Some U.S. states may specify specific types of tests, while Hawaii will only accept test results from laboratories that have been awarded “Trusted Partner” status. FSM laboratories have not yet been awarded this designation but the FSM application is currently under review.

As a result, FSM citizens who travel to some U.S. jurisdictions such as Hawaii may be subject to a mandatory 10-day quarantine process despite carrying documentary evidence of a negative COVID-19 test. Citizens are advised to check the relevant government and travel websites for the lo-

» One out of five Micronesian adults fully vaccinated

cation they are traveling to for any additional requirements.

Citizens traveling abroad are encouraged to carry upon their persons documentary evidence of their negative COVID-19 test; ideally, traveling citizens will also be carrying upon their persons documentary evidence of completing the COVID-19 vaccination process. Similar to the FSM, the U.S. has both national and state travel requirements; individuals traveling abroad may be required to register online with the relevant state’s travel website. For t Hawaii, this site is: <https://travel.hawaii.gov/>

As of April 25, 2021, 21% of all FSM adult citizens and residents have completed the

COVID-19 vaccination process. Thirty-three percent of all FSM adult citizens have taken at least the first dose of the vaccine.

For the state of Kosrae, 32% of adults have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; 43% of adults have taken at least the first dose of the vaccine.

For the state of Yap, 40% of adults have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; 43% of adults have taken at least the first dose of the vaccine.

For the state of Pohnpei, 21% of adults have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; 34% of adults have taken at least the first dose of the vaccine.

For the state of Chuuk, 15% of adults have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; 29% of adults have taken at least the first dose of the vaccine. (PR)

May 14 deadline to comment on PA Memo supporting US Marines relocation to Guam

ASAN, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas announces the availability of a Programmatic Agreement Memo for public review and comments through May 14.

PA Memos provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to participate in the Section 106 consultation process required under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The following PA Memo provides new cultural and natural resources information associated with planned construction projects and are available on the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural

Information webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/kZWG>. (URL is case sensitive)

Project P-280 is for the proposed construction of an aviation administration building to provide command and administrative space that will support an assigned 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) aviation combat element, transient-deployed aviation units and other Marine Air-Ground Task Force elements assigned to Guam.

This is a 45-day public comment period and interested members of the community may submit comments via email to criwebcomment@

navy.mil.

Those without internet access may obtain a printed copy of this PA Memo from the Guam Historic Resources Division, located at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, 96910 (in the Department of Parks and Recreation Office).

In addition, the community is encouraged to subscribe to regular updates and other information related to the Programmatic Agreement by visiting the Joint Region Marianas Web page and signing up at the following link:

<https://go.usa.gov/x5BQS>. (USN)



Eliceo D. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE TO ALL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ON SAIPAN, TINIAN & ROTA

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) recognizes the economic hardship that CNMI marine sports operators have experienced, and continue to experience, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NMIAC § 15-10-205(h)(4) requires all commercial marine sports permits to expire on May 30th each year. To assist the marine sports community during these challenging times, the renewal fee for commercial marine sports operators whose permit(s) were renewed last year and are set to expire on May 30, 2021, shall be waived. To avail of a permit fee waiver, all currently permitted marine sports operators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota must submit a complete application package to DCRM on or before May 30, 2021.

Marine sports operations that did not renew their permit last year are not eligible for a fee waiver. For more information, contact DCRM at 664-8300.

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
DCRM Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

NASA continues to achieve great things with helicopter flight on Mars

It's hard to imagine that a flight lasting a mere 39 seconds could represent monumental scientific achievement, but that was the reaction—and celebration—last week when the experimental helicopter known as Ingenuity lifted off the surface of Mars.

In yet another milestone for the NASA space program, the helicopter achieved what a team of engineers and scientists had spent six years working on: the first powered flight by an aircraft on another planet.

NASA officials hailed it as the space equivalent of a “Wright brothers moment” and for good reason. The ability to use powered helicopters—or perhaps drones in the future—to explore a planet's surface would be an invaluable aid in examining difficult or dangerous places, or to serve as a scout for the day when astronauts arrive.

It's an amazing accomplishment in the ongoing exploration of space that pays tribute to the relentless work of NASA scientists. The helicopter's short flight took years of engineering to overcome the obstacles present on Mars. Because the planet's atmosphere is just 1% the density of Earth's, engineers had to build a helicopter with rotor blades that could spin at 2,500 revolutions per minute—five times faster than on Earth. And it had to be light enough to gain lift, sturdy enough to withstand Martian wind, and capable of relying on a solar panel to recharge batteries while surviving night temperatures of minus-130 degrees Fahrenheit.

Even the preprogrammed first flight tested the patience of NASA officials who had to wait an agonizing three hours before the photos and video of the helicopter's successful flight made their way 178 million miles from Mars to Earth. When they arrived, the cheers went up from scientists around the world for what NASA had accomplished.

This is American ingenuity and inventiveness at its finest, qualities the country's space program has nurtured from its earliest days a half-century ago. Critics may question the amount of money spent on space exploration—the helicopter alone cost \$85 million—but the tangible results of scientific study and engineering are part of our everyday lives.

The race to space helped launch the development of personal computers and laptops; the technology used for MRIs, CAT scans and LASIK eye surgery; the computer mouse; scratch-resistant lenses; and even the cameras used in cellphones.

Exploring space required the launch of numerous satellites that today provide us with the GPS systems in our cars and phones, the weather forecasting technology that gives advance warning of dangerous storms, and the ability to communicate quickly with someone thousands of miles away.

The flight of Ingenuity may have been short, but its inspiration is great and its promise for further advances is immeasurable.

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Vaccine passports are the nudge we need to achieve herd immunity

To hear some people tell it, vaccine passports are just another effort by Democrats, progressives and Satan to take away your freedom, just like when they told you to wear a mask and made you shut down your business.

In a hyperventilating Wall Street Journal op-ed a couple of weeks ago, two medical school professors lit viciously into the idea of vaccine passports, calling them, among other things, “a coercive scheme to encourage vaccination.”

But vaccine passports aren't coercive. And as for encouraging vaccination, would that be such a bad thing?

The United States will remain at risk until we reach herd immunity, which means we need somewhere between 70% and 85% of Americans to get vaccinated. If protecting themselves isn't enough to encourage people to get the shot, perhaps changing the incentives will be.

A vaccine passport, for those who haven't been following this bit of partisan warfare, is an official credential of inoculation. The idea is that once people get their inoculations, the “passports” would grant them access to venues denied to those without them. Airlines, sports stadiums, concert halls, malls, office complexes or schools, for example, might decide to allow only those with vaccine passports. The passports would be digital, for the most part—an app on your phone, say, that you could flash for entry.

Countries from Britain to Israel to Singapore to Aruba are moving toward—or already using—some form of vaccine passports.

I have trouble seeing what's coercive about them. Vaccines would still be an option, not a mandate. Like a driver's license. If you want to drive a car, you need to get a license, for safety's sake. But if you don't feel like getting a license, that's OK too—you also have the option of not driving a car.

Similarly, if you want your child to attend public school, you need to prove that he or she has been inoculated. If you're not willing to have your child be vaccinated for the safety of others, you have the option of home-schooling.

It would be the same with vaccine passports. If you wanted to go back to concert arenas and crowded theaters, you'd get yourself vaxxed and claim your passport. If you preferred to opt out, you could do that.

From the start, the main justification for vaccine passports has been the straightforward one: People who are vaccinated are very unlikely to contract the virus or to infect others. So it makes sense that they should be allowed to fly on planes around the world, go to crowded sporting events and concerts—whereas unvaccinated people are both more vulnerable and more dangerous to others. Passports offer a way of reopening the economy with a minimum of risk.

But I actually find their potential as a “nudge” to get people to do the right thing equally compelling.

An NPR/Marist poll this month found that 1 in 4 Americans

By **NICHOLAS GOLDBERG**
Los Angeles Times



said they would reject a COVID-19 vaccine if offered one.

But simply knowing that, without vaccinations, they couldn't enter their local bar or attend a concert or board an overseas flight might be enough to persuade many hesitant people to get inoculated.

Harvard law professor Cass Sunstein and University of Chicago economist Richard Thaler have long written about this kind of nudge. The two academics, who have a particular interest in behavioral economics, have argued that it is often possible to help people make smart decisions for themselves and society by subtly nudging them in the proper direction. Without heavy-handed mandates, but through “libertarian paternalism,” as Sunstein and Thaler have called it, people can be encouraged, maneuvered or incentivized toward making the best possible choices.

Thaler has called vaccine passports a “perk” for those who have been inoculated.

Vaccine passports would have been wrong when only a small portion of the population had been deemed eligible for vaccination. And they still shouldn't be required for those under 16, who aren't eligible, or those with medical conditions prohibiting vaccinations. Also, for the proposal to work fairly, every one who wants a vaccination should have access to one.

But today, with virtually every American 16 or over eligible for a shot, those who aren't vaccinated are increasingly those who choose not to be because they can't be bothered or they don't see the advantage of it or because they harbor unreasonable fears about the risks.

The Biden administration has already said it will not press for a mandatory national vaccine credential. And a number of Republican governors have called for bans on them in their states.

But the reality is, vaccine requirements are already upon us. Last week, the University of California and California State University said that they would require all students, faculty and staff who are on campus this fall to be vaccinated. And the president of the European Commission suggested that if Americans wanted to travel to Europe this summer, they would have to show that they had been inoculated.

I'm not eager to live in a society where some people have privileges that others do not. But if we find we can't reach herd immunity in the midst of this once-in-a-lifetime crisis because some people aren't behaving responsibly, vaccine passports could play a crucial role.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Vaccine mandates aren't the only—or easiest—way for employers to compel workers to get their shots

A workplace showdown may be brewing over mandating vaccinations.

Employers would love the sense of certainty that comes with a vaccinated workforce. Workers can be brought back sooner than later, there's no need for physical distancing in the office and there will be less worry about employees falling ill from COVID-19.

And polls suggest many workers would love this too. One recent survey found that over 60% of workers want their companies to require everyone to get vaccinated before returning to the office.

But not everyone is convinced about the value of getting vaccinated. Surveys suggest that 17% of American adults are taking a "wait and see" approach to the vaccine, and 20% say either they "definitely" won't get the vaccine or would do so only if required. Some states, such as Florida and North Dakota, have even introduced legislation that would prevent companies and other businesses from requiring workers to get vaccinated.

While I agree with other employment law experts that companies are well within their legal rights to mandate a vaccine—provided they offer disability and religious accommodations—I don't expect them to lower the hammer, at least not right away.

As I explain in an ongoing book project, employers have already gotten so good at nudging workers to do what they want, they may not need to resort to a mandate.

The illusion of control

Employers have such a strong influence on their employees' daily behavior—and bodies—that it becomes part of the rhythm of their lives.

Most people can remember a time when they skipped breakfast to avoid being late for work. Nurses regularly report missing breaks and meals to tend to patients' needs. Even remote workers who are physically removed from direct control may find themselves hovering over a laptop late at night, at the expense of their family, mental health and eyesight.

Or to use an extreme example, warehouse workers and poultry workers have reportedly avoided trips to the bathroom just to keep up with an impossible pace of work.

Most of the time, employers influence worker choices without a direct mandate. Instead, they use more subtle methods—like imposing rules and expectations, tinkering with pay, monitoring behaviors, controlling time and passing judgment on performance.

Undoubtedly some organizations, such as airlines and nursing homes, will impose a vaccine mandate as a business necessity.

And while many corporate CEOs say they are mulling the idea of a mandate, most seem to have settled on more subtle methods

at their disposal.

Making it easier to get vaccinated

A simple way to alter worker choices is to make it easier for workers to engage in behavior the employer wants to encourage.

At the law firm where I used to work, they offered dinner for people who worked past 6:30 p.m. Were they just being nice? Of course not! They wanted us to stay at work, rather than calling it quits when we got hungry.

Companies have already started doing the same for vaccines. Some employers—including my university—are offering on-site vaccinations.

Others are making it easier for workers to make it to their vaccine appointments off-site. Target is offering its workers free Lyft rides to vaccination sites.

For workers worried about using scarce vacation or sick time, Trader Joe's, Chobani and Dollar General are offering time off to get vaccinated.

Even a gesture as simple as instructing managers to find coverage for a worker's shift could help relieve the logistical burden for workers who want to get vaccinated but haven't gotten around to it.

Information and education

Companies are already accustomed to pushing out educational information to workers—particularly during the pandemic, when they have had to roll out and update social distancing protocols in a short time frame.

Although the human resources department often handles routine communications about legal requirements and mandatory training sessions, companies can also draw upon the expertise of their marketing departments to craft internal messaging to employees.

They seem to already be doing so with vaccine messaging. Some large companies, like Walmart and Microsoft, are assisting with the vaccine rollout and publicizing that role in their internal and external messaging. Meatpacking plants, which have been plagued by extensive COVID-19 outbreaks, are promoting the vaccine through videos, posters and presentations.

And when the stakes are high enough, companies can be brutally effective at persuasion—as when Amazon convinced its Alabama warehouse workers to reject a union in a recent vote. The retailer apparently went so far as to barrage workers with near-daily text messages, targeted social media ads and even marketing materials in warehouse bathroom stalls.

As the U.S. finds itself in a race to vaccinate enough of the population to keep fast-spreading COVID-19 variants at bay, the stakes are deadly serious for companies hoping to reopen without workplace outbreaks in the months ahead.

By **ELIZABETH C. TIPPETT**

University of Oregon



Making it a hassle to avoid getting vaccinated

Short of threatening to fire unvaccinated workers who do not qualify for a disability or religious exemption, companies certainly could make things inconvenient for workers who avoid the vaccine as a matter of personal preference.

I expect that companies may start to resort to more punitive measures over time, to help push remaining stragglers over the finish line.

What might that look like?

It could be a "reward" that is primarily intended to foment a fear of missing out among the vaccine-reluctant; monthly raffle drawings available to the recently vaccinated; tickets to the company's outdoor barbecue for those fully vaccinated by a specified date; or preference in vacation scheduling or shift selection for those who are vaccinated or qualify for an exemption.

Employers can also introduce annoying hassles for vaccine avoiders, not unlike the way they prod workers who are slow to complete the company's mandatory harassment training, as I know from personal experience. That could mean automated reminders, followed by personalized reminders from human resources, and eventually a phone call. At some point, it becomes more of a hassle to avoid the vaccine than to get it.

Companies that don't want to fire workers who refuse to get a shot may ultimately have them sign a document acknowledging the health risks of continued exposure—like the form employers are required to provide health care workers who refuse a hepatitis B vaccine. While such a document should not include an unlawful waiver of workers' compensation claims, it could explicitly warn workers of the health risks they're taking.

Are companies meddling in workers' choice and behavior? Of course they are. You might even say it's their core competency.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/vaccine-mandates-arent-the-only-or-easiest-way-for-employers-to-compel-workers-to-get-their-shots-159028>.

Don't let Republicans play the 'whatabout' game with a Jan. 6 probe

In February House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called for a 9/11-style commission to investigate the Jan. 6 siege of the Capitol by crazed Trump bitter-enders. The idea was widely endorsed, including by the Los Angeles Times editorial board, but it has stalled because of partisan bickering.

Pelosi has acceded to one Republican request—that the two parties have an equal say in appointing members of the panel—but now some prominent Republicans are making an additional, absurd demand: that the commission also be tasked with investigating previous incidents outside of the halls of Congress, including violence conservatives attribute to the Black Lives Matter movement.

On "Fox News Sunday" Chris Wallace asked House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., about a "special committee" to investigate the Jan. 6 riot.

McCarthy's response: "Since Good Friday we just had Officer [Billy] Evans killed in the Capitol. For the last year we've had political violence across this country and in this city. I think we should look at all of that."

The killing of Evans on April 2, when a driver rammed into him and another Capitol Police officer, is arguably connected to the Jan. 6 riots because both incidents implicate Capitol security

measures. But the idea that a Jan. 6 commission would look at "political violence across the country and in this city" is bizarre.

Why not throw in Benghazi, Whitewater and the John F. Kennedy assassination while we're at it?

This whataboutism isn't surprising coming from McCarthy. After a brief moment in which he acknowledged that Donald Trump bore responsibility for the riots, the Republican leader has been engaged in a cringe-making effort to cozy up to the former president, including by traveling to Mar-a-Lago to enlist Trump's aid in the GOP's drive to regain control of the House next year.

In Sunday's interview with Wallace, McCarthy took revisionist history to a new level, saying: "I was the first person to contact [Trump] when the riots was going on. He didn't see it. What he ended the call was saying—telling me, he'll put something out to make sure to stop this. And that's what he did, he put a video out later." His assertion that Trump had been unaware of the riots strains credulity; a timeline assembled by The New York Times suggests Trump was well aware of the chaos by the time they spoke. And as for Trump putting out a video later, Wallace aptly replied: "Quite a lot later. And it was a pretty weak video."

It's obscene to suggest a symmetry between the Jan. 6 riots,

By **MICHAEL MCGOUGH**

Los Angeles Times

Michael McGough is the Los Angeles Times' senior editorial writer.








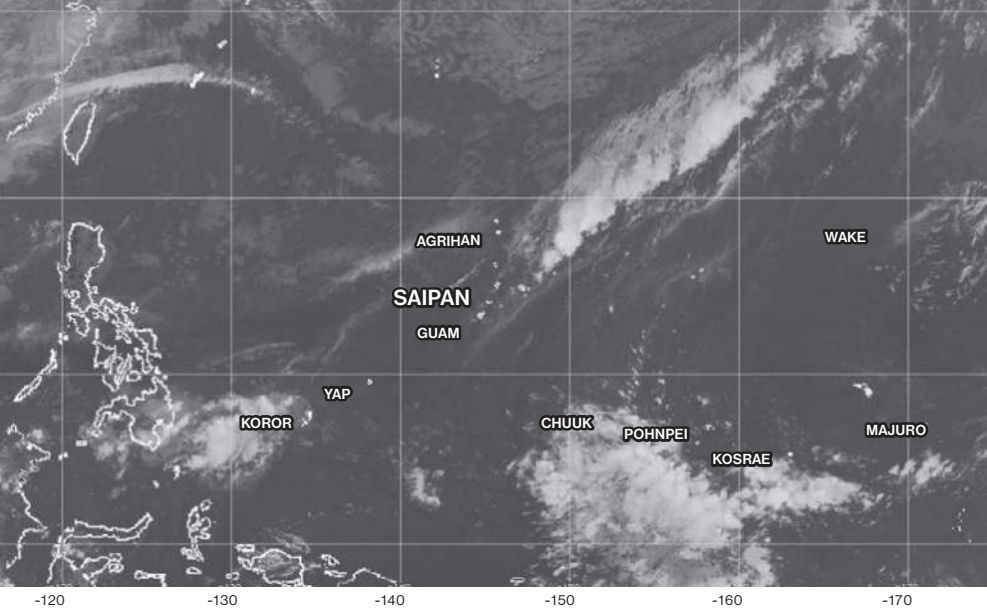
which sought to overturn the results of a presidential election, and other acts of violence, however deplorable. Pelosi should continue to insist that a commission focus on the insurrection, and she should challenge Republicans to support that effort.

One Republican leader, House Republican Conference Chair Liz Cheney of Wyoming, already has broken with McCarthy. Although she said she was concerned by "the BLM, the antifa violence last summer," Cheney said that "it's very important that the Jan. 6 commission stays focused on what happened on Jan. 6, and what led to that day."

Precisely. Every Republican in Congress must be pressed to say whether they agree with her or with McCarthy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 12:03 PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front north of Saipan waters is producing numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms. For Saipan waters scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms have been added to the forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:32 AM	8:54 PM
Friday	-	8:29 AM	10:00 PM
Saturday	-	9:29 AM	11:03 PM
Sunday	-	10:30 AM	-
Monday	12:02 AM	11:31 AM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	65° / 53°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny/Wind	70° / 42°	
Hong Kong	Cloudy	81° / 73°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 70°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 36°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 56°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	83° / 76°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	83° / 76°	
New York	Rain	72° / 60°	
Osaka	Rain	64° / 56°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 40°	
Pusan	Cloudy	68° / 56°	
Rome	Rain	68° / 54°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 65°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 49°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Tokyo	Rain	69° / 60°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	82° / 59°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:11 AM	Low Tide	1.03	
8:21 AM	High Tide	2.11	
3:32 PM	Low Tide	-0.35	
10:25 PM	High Tide	2.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business



BEA CABRERA
Daniel's Coffee Saipan is located along Beach Road across TSL Building in Garapan.



BEA CABRERA

Daniel's Coffee Saipan's drive-thru assures fast and convenient service.

Daniel's Coffee Saipan to offer coffee via drive-thru

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Starting May 3, Daniel's Coffee Saipan located along Beach Road across TSL Plaza will offer coffee via drive-thru from 6am to 8pm. According to owner Leo Legaspi, Daniel's Coffee Saipan is a franchise

from the Philippines and their main goal is to serve a fast and convenient choice for people on the go without compromising the quality of their products. "What sets us apart from



BEA CABRERA

Daniel's Coffee Saipan owner Leo Legaspi is proud to bring this franchise from the Philippines because of the unique taste that every drink offers.

Biden signs \$15 minimum wage for federal contract workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden signed an executive order Tuesday to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for federal contractors, providing a pay bump to hundreds of thousands of workers. Biden administration officials said that the higher wages would lead to greater worker productivity, offsetting any additional costs to taxpayers. "This executive order will promote economy and efficiency in federal contracting, providing value for taxpayers by enhancing worker productivity and generating higher-quality work by boosting workers' health, morale, and effort," the White House said in a statement. The liberal Economic Policy Institute estimates that as many as 390,000 low-wage federal contractors would receive a raise, with roughly half of the beneficiaries being Black or Hispanic workers. There are an estimated 5 million contract workers in the

federal government, according to a posting last year for the Brookings Institution by Paul Light, a public policy professor at New York University. The increase could be dramatic for workers who earn the current minimum of \$10.95 an hour. Those workers would receive a 37% pay hike, though the increase would be rolled out gradually, according to the terms of the order. The White House said the workers would include cleaning professionals and maintenance workers, nursing assistants who care for veterans, cafeteria workers providing for the military and laborers who build and repair federal infrastructure. All federal agencies would need to include the higher wage in new contract offerings by Jan. 30 of next year. By March 30, agencies would need to implement the higher wage into new contracts. The increase would also be in existing contracts that are extended.

other coffee shops on island is our drive-thru. Once customers enter, they see the menu on the right side that carries all the coffee, espresso, and non-coffee items that we have... we used to open the drive-thru from 9am to 8pm but due to request and demand, we are opening earlier to serve people who are on their way to work or school," he said.

"This drive-thru is the same drive-thru that my other business, Bes House of Chicken, is using. But there is no conflict. In fact, it's like a one-stop shop—you get food from Bes House of Chicken and drinks from Daniel's Coffee Saipan. We have two windows that ensure efficiency—first is where you order and pay and the sec-

Biden releases money in push to modernize US electric grid

NEW YORK (AP)—The federal government said Tuesday it is making more than \$8 billion available to build and improve the nation's transmission lines as part of its efforts to improve America's aging electric grid and meet President Joe Biden's ambitious clean-energy goals. The administration is also pledging to speed up a sluggish permitting process that has delayed the types of major transmission projects that are crucial to meeting Biden's goals.

The president has said he wants the nation to produce 100% clean energy by 2035. But that goal faces massive hurdles. Those include an electric grid that has been pummeled by climate change and which needs enormous expansion to carry electricity from renewable energy sources to densely populated regions. The Department of Energy said it will release \$8.25 billion in loans for developers to improve the grid's ability to carry renewable energy from

the windy, sunny plains to the regions that need it most. "These investments will make our power system more resilient against threats and more reliable as we increase our clean energy capacity, creating thousands of jobs in the process," said Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, in a statement. There will be \$3.25 billion in loans available for projects that unlock renewable energy in the Western U.S. Another \$5 billion in loans will support transmission projects owned

by federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, including transmission to connect offshore wind. The Department of Transportation will help speed the siting and permitting of transmission projects by facilitating the use of public highways and other transportation rights-of-way, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said. It will also issue guidance that will help states build renewable energy projects and transmission lines.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

DOW	33,984.93	0.0099%	+3.36
S&P	4,186.72	0.021%	-0.90
NASDAQ	14,090.22	0.34%	-48.56

LEADING INDICATORS

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S&P	4,186.72	0.021%	-0.90
NASDAQ	14,090.22	0.34%	-48.56

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7624	Russian Ruble	74.1403
Australian Dollar	1.2914	Singapore Dollar	1.3267
British Pound	0.7205	Japanese Yen	108.9630
Canadian Dollar	1.2408	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0680
Chinese Yuan	6.3927	New Zealand Dollar	1.3881
Euro	0.8284	Philippine Peso	47.6225
		Thailand Baht	31.3670

Nation

Biden to propose free preschool, as speech details emerge

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden will call for free preschool for all three- and four-year-old children, a \$200 billion investment to be rolled out as part of his sweeping American Families Plan being unveiled Wednesday in an address to Congress.

The administration said the historic investment would benefit 5 million children and save the average family \$13,000. It calls for providing federal funds to help the states offer preschool, with teachers and other employees earning \$15 an hour.

“These investments will give American children a head start and pave the way for the best-educated generation in U.S. history,” the administration said.

The new details are part of Biden’s \$1 trillion-plus package, an ambitious next phase of his massive infrastructure investment program, this one focused on so-called human infrastructure—child care, health care, education and other core aspects of the household architecture that undergird everyday life for countless Americans.

Together with Biden’s American Jobs Plan, a \$2.3 trillion infrastructure investment to be funded by a corporate tax hike, they add up a whopping \$4 trillion effort to fulfill his campaign vow to Build Back Better.

‘Go get the shot’: Biden highlights path back to normal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden spent his first 100 days in office encouraging Americans to mask up and stay home to slow the spread of the coronavirus. His task for the next 100 days will be to lay out the path back to normal.

When he entered office, Biden moved swiftly to overcome problems with vaccine supply and more than tripled the country’s ability to administer them. But ending the coronavirus pandemic, the central challenge of his presidency, will require not only putting shots into arms—a task now growing more difficult as demand sags—but also a robust plan to help the nation emerge from a year of isolation, disruption and confusion.

If Biden launched the nation onto a war footing against a virus that infected nearly 200,000 Americans in January and killed about 3,000 of them per day, the next months will be tantamount to winning the peace. Already, deaths are down to fewer than 700 per day, and average daily cases are below 60,000. U.S. officials insist there is a



The American Families Plan would be paid for by hiking taxes on the wealthiest 1% of Americans, in keeping with the president’s vow not to raise taxes on those making less than \$400,000 a year.

Ahead of Wednesday’s speech, lawmakers have been pushing to make sure key priorities are included.

A group of leading centrist and progressive Democrats met late Tuesday with the

White House to discuss its priority of making permanent the Child Tax Credit, which was increased to as much as \$300 a month as part of a COVID-19 relief package. Right now, that benefit expires in 2022 and Biden has suggested extending it to 2025.

“We’re hopeful,” said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, the chairman of the Banking Committee and advocate for a permanent child tax credit.

Zients in a Monday interview. “It means we’re closer to returning to normal.”

Highlighting the new guidelines at the White House on Tuesday, Biden said the vaccines are increasingly helping America “get back to more normal living,” and he promised more details next week on making that possible. It’s part of what officials said will be a focus in the coming weeks on easing restrictions for vaccinated people, both in recognition of their lower risk and as an incentive to get shots.

“Getting together with friends, going to the park for a picnic without needing to mask up, we’re back to that place now as long as you get vaccinated,” Biden said. “So go get the shot.”

In a first, Biden, who has sought to model the most cautious behavior for the public, provided an example of how the new guidance is liberating. Biden walked outside the White House alone wearing a black face mask before his remarks on the North Lawn. He removed it for his remarks and

“We want it to be permanent because it’s so important for so many people’s lives.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appears to have secured one top priority for Democrats, lowering the cost of buying health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Biden’s plan is expected to extend the enhanced health insurance subsidies that had been approved as part of COVID-19 relief, rather than al-

lowing them to expire in 2022, according to a Democratic aide granted anonymity to discuss private conversations.

But another key priority of Pelosi and Democrats—lowering prescription drug costs—is not expected to be in the package, the aide said. Also unlikely to make the final draft is a push from progressives led by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont to reduce the Medicare eligibility age, which is now set at 65, and expand Medicare’s benefits to include access to dental, vision and hearing aid care for seniors.

Sanders vowed Tuesday to add those provisions once Congress begins drafting the legislation.

didn’t replace it after leaving the lectern, saying he wanted Americans to watch “me take it off and not put it back on until I walk back inside.”

On Inauguration Day, the notion of COVID-19 vaccine supply eclipsing demand seemed fanciful, with only priority groups eligible for shots and an underground economy emerging for “extra doses” for everyone else. Now, shots are so plentiful in many places that the Biden administration is encouraging states and pharmacy partners to set up walk-in sites for doses without appointments.

This “new phase,” as Biden’s team calls it, has been the subject of intense preparation since even before the president’s inauguration. Wary of wasting a moment, Zients and other officials drafted a mountain of emails to launch the federal bureaucracy into action to be sent in the first minutes after their government email accounts were activated. Even as more Americans get vaccinated, Zients said, the White House wasn’t letting up its urgency just yet.

AP
President Joe Biden responds to a question from reporters about COVID-19, on the North Lawn of the White House, Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Washington.

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Judge has doubts on voter privacy in Arizona recount

PHOENIX (AP)—A judge hearing a challenge to voter privacy policies during the Republican-controlled Arizona Senate’s recount of 2.1 million 2020 election ballots in the county that includes metro Phoenix said Tuesday he is not convinced voter secrecy is being upheld.

The comment from Maricopa County Superior Court Judge Daniel Martin came at the end of a lengthy hearing where he also declined to extend a previous judge’s order that auditors hired by the Senate comply with state voter privacy laws -- at least until he hears more at a hearing on Wednesday.

“I will share with you all, I am not yet persuaded that there has been a showing that the rights of the voters in Maricopa County are being protected,” Martin said. “And I think we will touch on this tomorrow when we address the policies and procedures and whether or not they can be withheld from public view.”

The Arizona Democratic Party and the lone Democrat on the GOP-controlled Maricopa County Board of Supervisors sued the state Senate and the contractor overseeing the election audit, Cyber Ninjas, Thursday. They want the recount of the 2020 presidential election won by President Joe Biden

halted unless they get guarantees that voter privacy and ballot secrecy is ensured.

A judge who has since stepped aside from the contentious case on Friday ordered the recount halted if Democrats posted a \$1 million bond, which the party declined to do. He also ordered the Senate and private election auditors to follow state law on voter and ballot secrecy and for Cyber Ninjas to produce its recount policies and procedures in court.

Cyber Ninjas is a Florida firm with no election experience run by Doug Logan, who has shared unfounded conspiracy theories claiming the official 2020 presidential election results are illegitimate. His attorney is seeking to have its policies and procedures for protecting voter privacy kept secret, arguing that they are trade secrets.

Martin plans to take testimony on the company’s request to keep the material secret at a hearing Wednesday. He also said he plans to consider whether to again order the recount halted or renew the previous judge’s orders on ballot secrecy rules.

He started Tuesday’s hearing by rejecting the Senate lawyers’ arguments that they are not required to follow state elections law outlining how voters’ constitutional rights are protected.

Asia

AS FOREIGN HELP ARRIVES

India records 320K cases

NEW DELHI (AP)—India recorded more than 320,000 new cases of coronavirus infection Tuesday as a grim surge of illness and death weighed on the country and its sinking health system started getting much-needed support from foreign nations.

Tuesday's 323,144 new infections raised India's total past 17.6 million, behind only the United States. It ended a five-day streak of recording the largest single-day increases in any country throughout the pandemic, but the decline likely reflects lower weekend testing rather than reduced spread of the virus.

The health ministry also reported another 2,771 deaths in the past 24 hours, with roughly 115 Indians succumbing to the disease every hour. The latest fatalities pushed India's deaths to 197,894, behind the U.S., Brazil and Mexico. Experts say even these figures are probably an undercount.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi tweeted photos Tuesday of the first shipment of medical aid India received from Britain. It included 100 ventilators and 95 oxygen concentrators.

Other nations including the U.S., Germany, Israel and Pakistan have also promised medical aid. The countries have said they will supply oxygen, diagnostic tests, treat-



Exhausted workers, who bring dead bodies for cremation, sit on the rear step of an ambulance inside a crematorium, in New Delhi, India, Saturday, April 24, 2021.

ments, ventilators and protective gear to help India's crisis, which World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called "beyond heartbreaking."

The surge, spurred by new variants of the coronavirus, has undermined the government's claims of victory over the pandemic. The country of nearly 1.4 billion people is facing shortages of space in intensive care wards. Hospitals are experiencing oxygen shortages and many people are being forced to turn to makeshift facilities for mass burials and cremations.

India's top health official on Monday urged Indians to wear masks at home to prevent the spread of the virus. "It's time people start wear-

ing masks inside their homes as well," said Dr. V.K. Paul, the head of a government committee on medical emergency preparedness.

India has also called on its armed forces to help. India's chief of Defense Staff, Gen. Bipin Rawat, said oxygen supplies will be released from armed forces reserves and its retired medical personnel will join health facilities to ease the pressure on doctors.

Meanwhile, in a bid to tackle the shortage of beds, authorities are turning to train carriages which have been converted into isolation wards. India has also started airlifting oxygen tanks to states in need. Special trains with oxygen supplies are also running in the country.

Myanmar guerrillas capture gov't base; airstrikes follow

BANGKOK (AP)—Ethnic Karen guerrillas said they captured a Myanmar army base on Tuesday near the border with Thailand, representing a morale-boosting action for those opposing the military's takeover of the country's civilian government in February.

Myanmar's military staged airstrikes several hours later on villages in territory controlled by the Karen forces, according to a guerrilla spokesman, a senior Thai official and a relief worker.

The fighting took place three days after a meeting of Southeast Asian leaders to try to hammer out a plan to restore peace in Myanmar, where the military government has attempted to suppress widespread opposition to its rule through the use of lethal force. More than 700 protesters and bystanders have been killed by security forces, according to several detailed estimates. The junta's figure is about one-third of that.

A spokesman for the Karen National Union, the minority's

main political group seeking greater autonomy from Myanmar's central government, said its armed wing attacked the base at 5 a.m. and burned it down just after dawn.

Casualty figures were not yet known, the KNU's head of foreign affairs, Padoh Saw Taw Nee, said in a text message. There was no immediate comment from Myanmar's military government.

The KNU, which controls territory in eastern Myanmar near the Thai border, is a close ally of the resistance movement against the military coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Its armed wing is called the Karen National Liberation Army.

Video shot from the Thai side of the border showed flames rising from the government position on the banks of the Salween River amid the sound of heavy gunfire. The river marks the border with Thailand.

Padoh Man Man of the KNLA's 5th Brigade, which launched the morning attack,

said Myanmar's military carried out airstrikes in the early afternoon, but he did not know how many casualties there were. He described the air raids as a "heinous war crime" and called for the international community to pressure the junta to stop them.

Sithichai Jindaluang, the governor of Thailand's Mae Hong Son province, confirmed at a news conference that Karen guerrillas had overrun the Myanmar base and said a woman on Thai soil was wounded by a stray bullet. He said about 450 villagers have been evacuated from Mae Sam Lap for their own safety.

Sithichai also said a Myanmar military aircraft later bombed a Karen village.

Dave Eubank of the Free Burma Rangers, a humanitarian aid group with extensive experience in the area, said he could confirm there had been airstrikes on Karen villages in Papun district. He said five bombs were dropped but caused no casualties. Myanmar's army was also staging ground attacks in the area, Eubank said.

World

Brazil health regulator rejects Sputnik vaccine

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazil's health regulator cited safety concerns while rejecting several states' requests to import almost 30 million doses of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, prompting criticism from the Russian government.

The five-person board of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency unanimously decided late Monday that consistent and trustworthy data required was lacking for approval of the requests from 10 states, according to a statement. Another four states and two cities have also sought authorization to import the vaccine.

The agency, known as Anvisa, said there were faults in all clinical studies of the vaccine's development, as well as absent or insufficient data.

The agency statement said that analysis indicated that the adenovirus on which the vaccine is based has the capacity to replicate, which could cause sickness or death, particularly among those with low immunity or respiratory problems. The Russian fund overseeing the vaccine's marketing globally

denied the claim.

"We will never permit, without the existence of due proof required, millions of Brazilians to be exposed to products without the due proof of their quality, safety and efficacy or, at minimum, in the face of the grave situation that we're living through, a favorable cost-benefit relationship," Anvisa's president Antônio Barra Torres said in the statement.

Anvisa's decision doesn't affect a separate request from Brazilian company Uniao Quimica for emergency use authorization of Sputnik V produced locally, according to an emailed statement from Anvisa's press office.

Still, it came as a blow to Russia's efforts to promote worldwide adoption of the vaccine, whose exports have helped it regain diplomatic footholds in countries where relationships had languished.

"We need additional information on what this lack (of data) means, because there's already more than enough data," Kremlin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told re-

porters in a daily briefing.

"The contacts (with Brazil) will continue. If some data is lacking, it will be provided," he added.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund said in a three-page statement that "no replication-competent adenoviruses were ever found in any of the Sputnik V vaccine batches produced."

It was also more pointed in its criticism, saying that dozens of national health regulators have approved Sputnik V and Anvisa's decision was "of a political nature and has nothing to do with the regulator's access to information or science."

The fund pointed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' 2020 annual report, which said in a section titled "Combating malign influences in the Americas" that it had convinced Brazil to not to buy the Russian shot. The U.S. Embassy in Brazil has denied exerting any pressure regarding vaccines approved by Brazil's health regulator, and Brazil's foreign ministry has denied being contacted.

Somalia's president drops bid for extended term after chaos

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia's president early Wednesday bowed to growing opposition to his extended stay in office, urging a return to negotiations on the country's delayed election and vowing that the sight of rival soldiers clashing in the streets of the capital would not happen again.

President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed delivered the national address after midnight following fast-moving events that saw two key regional states object to his two-year extension and the prime minister welcome their action.

The president did not resign, as some expected, but he said he will speak to parliament on Saturday to inform them of developments. He had faced growing opposition after the lower house of parliament approved the extension of his mandate and he signed it into law, to the fury of Senate leaders who called the move illegal. Now he is ready to go ahead with elections based on the Sept. 17 agreement between his government and regional states,

which the international community had emphasized.

The president had not commented publicly since hundreds of soldiers opposing his mandate extension took up positions in the capital on Sunday and clashed with other security forces. Alarmed by the extraordinary sight, the United Nations, African Union, United States and others on Tuesday warned against the "emerging fragmentation" of the Somali National Army along clan lines.

Some residents fled, worried that Somalia was against collapsing into conflict after years of trying to rebuild.

Soon afterward, the regional states of Hirshabelle and Galmudug turned against the president's stance and called for a return to talks on the national election that had been meant to take place in early February.

Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble backed that joint statement and called on security forces to return to their barracks. He also urged opposition leaders to stop any actions that could harm Somalia's stability.

In his brief speech, the president early Wednesday blamed unnamed foreigners for the recent troubles and accused unnamed political leaders of trying to use the "blood of young Somalis" to seek positions of power.

Somalia's election has been delayed amid disputes between the federal government and the states of Puntland and Jubaland along with the opposition. The U.N. and others have warned that the uncertainty jeopardizes a country rebuilding from three decades of conflict, and that the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group could take advantage of the chaos.

The president, a former U.S. citizen who gave up that status while in office, tried to defend his actions on the election standoff in a recent interview with his former local newspaper, The Buffalo News, asserting that Somalia "cannot afford a power vacuum" and the extra time would allow officials to organize the first one-person-one-vote direct election in decades. He added, "Who can lead, if we leave?"

» **Russia cries foul**

Environment

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Tribune participated in the back-to-back Earth Day celebrations last week: the road-side wave at Oleai and the island-wide cleanup in beaches, and we asked around to see what people think about environmental issues, and what should be done about them.

We depend on a healthy environment to fulfill our basic resource needs. The most obvious of those needs being food, water, shelter, and clean air. The basic need we often overlook is the enrichment of a healthy environment which provide us with insight, inspiration, and interconnectedness.

Rachel Carson, the leader of the modern environmental movement, put it this way: "Those who contemplate the beauty of the Earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature." Retaining the beauty she speaks of will require perseverance but will ensure a future we all want as long as we conserve our environment.

Carson also said "Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we will say our work is finished." Help to ensure a better future for you, your family, the CNMI, and the world by supporting and getting involved in local conservation efforts.

—JD Herndon, biologist



IVA MAURIN

TanHoldings Corporate Affairs vice president Catherine Attao, along with other volunteers, cleaning up the beach behind the TSL Plaza in Garapan last Saturday, during the island-wide cleanup event held to celebrate Earth Day 2021 in the CNMI.

TanHoldings, every year, looks forward to participating on the island wide-beach cleanup, in partnership with BECQ. Every year, the employees come out with family members and do their part in cleaning the beach. We just really want to do our part in helping keep the environment clean, especially our coastline. Our beaches is what makes Saipan very unique, so we want to do our part, especially in protecting our marine life.

Please, everybody do our part in keeping the beach clean. Whatever we bring to the beach, please be responsible and take it away. Let's just enjoy [the beach], this is something that generations down in front of us will enjoy and we just need to do our part in maintaining it and preserving it.

—Catherine Attao,
Tan Holdings Corporate Affairs/Corporate HR vice president



IVA MAURIN

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. administration chief Betty Terlaje calling on everyone to save the environment during the Earth Day road side waving held Thursday last week, organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth Ria Lael Terlaje, to increase environmental awareness in the CNMI.

Business and the environment are very much dependent on each other. Businesses should always strive to make a conscious effort to conserve, reduce the use and look out for the environment, because without a good environment, business actually will suffer. I challenge each and every business to find ways, small steps that make a big difference in the end for everybody, by reducing consumption wherever you can, and, and promoting the cause.

— Joseph C. Guerrero, Saipan
Chamber of Commerce president

Every bit counts. Every little straw, bottle cap, plastic bit and bob ends up in our ocean. No piece is too small to dispose of properly. It's our responsibility. Oceans hold 97% of earth's water, don't throw anything in there that you would not want to find in a water bottle you were drinking from.

—Madge Gai, diver



IVA MAURIN

Miss Earth Northern Marianas Ria Lael Terlaje, with her brother, leading a crowd of nature-loving volunteers on a road-side wave to spread awareness on the need to protect and care for the environment, held last Thursday, in celebration of Earth Day 2021.

Today, we gathered here to celebrate a global event where billions of people around the world, every April 22 since the 1970s have been gathering, to take action, to help the environment. To-

day, what I did in the CNMI was gather community members who wanted to do a roadside waving to inspire those who pass by. Even if it was just one person or two, we can get them inspired and fill them with passion and knowledge so they could inspire other people, so on and so forth.

There are so many environmental problems in this CNMI, from rising sea levels to our eroding shores to so much trash but I think right now the issue in the CNMI is illegal dumping only because it is optional. I've been through so many jungles and there are so many businesses who would just dump bags of trash everywhere. I think that's something that we need to educate our businesses. They're also bases of educating other people, their customers so, again a chain reaction of education.

—Ria Lael Terlaje, Miss Earth Northern Marianas



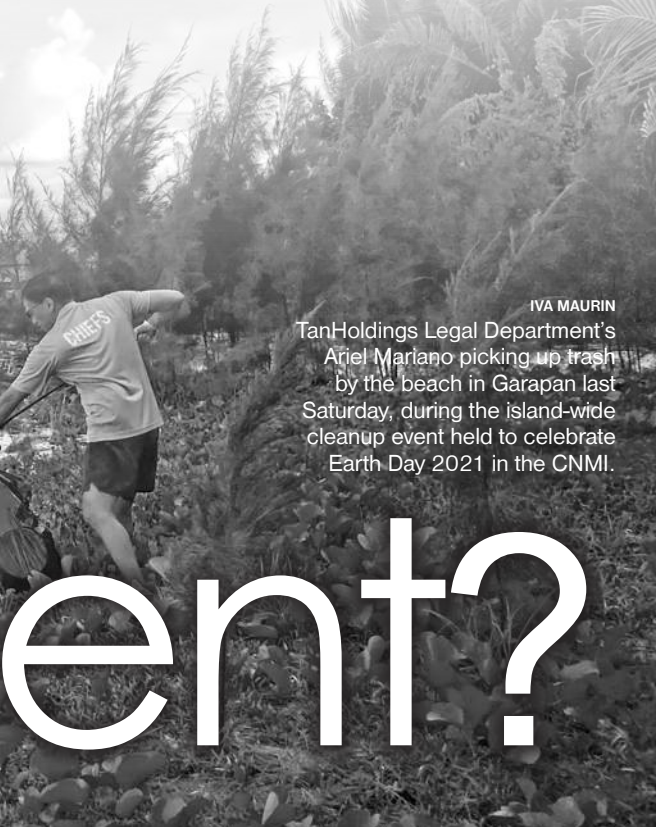
IVA MAURIN

Senate floor leader Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and his son advocating the "keep the sea plastic-free" at the Earth Day road side waving held Thursday last week, organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth, to increase environmental awareness in the CNMI.

Our illegal dumping problem is one of the big issues. Our land sizes is not too big so we got to figure out ways and movements to curb that problem. We have our ocean litter as well. We have washed up litter that comes from the ocean so that's one of the things we have to really keep in mind as well.

Earth Day is not only today, it should be every day. We're here to support Miss Earth, and everybody else who helps the Earth and cares about the Earth. It's very important that we become environmentalists in our own right, because the Earth is all we have. Our land is all we have, our water and our air, so it's very crucial for everybody to really understand that.

—Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan, Senate floor leader



IVA MAURIN

TanHoldings Legal Department's Ariel Mariano picking up trash by the beach in Garapan last Saturday, during the island-wide cleanup event held to celebrate Earth Day 2021 in the CNMI.

Vox Populi: What can we do in the CNMI to protect our

environment?

Life & Style

Facing \$11B tax bill, Samsung heirs donate mass art trove

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung's founding family will donate tens of thousands of rare artworks, including Picassos and Dalis, and give hundreds of millions of dollars to medical research to help them pay a massive inheritance tax following last year's death of chairman Lee Kun-Hee.

The Lee family, including his wife and three children, expects to pay more than 12 trillion won (\$10.8 billion) in taxes related to inheritance, which is more than half the wealth Lee held in stockholdings and real estate, Samsung said Wednesday. This would be the largest amount in South Korea and more than three times the country's total estate tax revenue for last year. The family plans to divide the payment in six installments over five years, while making the first

payment this month.

"It is our civic duty and responsibility to pay all taxes," the Lee family said in a statement. They had until Friday to report the extent of the inheritance and payment plans to tax authorities.

Raising cash for the tax payment is crucial for the Lee family to extend its control over Samsung's business empire, which extends from semiconductors, smartphones and TVs to construction, shipbuilding, and insurance. Some analysts say the process could result in a shakeup across the group.

The late Lee owned 4.18% of Samsung Electronics, which is one of the world's biggest makers of computer memory chips and smartphones, but also held stakes in Samsung affiliates that collectively owned a larger share than his in the crown jewel

electronics company. This was part of a complex shareholding structure that has allowed Lee and his family to exert broad control over the group.

In Wednesday's news release, Samsung did not mention how Lee's wife and children would split his assets between them, and there's speculation they haven't yet reached a final agreement.

Most market analysts believe that Lee's shares will be distributed in a way that would strengthen the leadership of his only son and corporate heir,



Lee Jae-yong, the de facto chief of Samsung Electronics who is currently serving a prison term over bribery and other crimes.

AP
Employees walk past a logo of the Samsung Electronics Co. at its office in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Lee's other children are Lee Boo-jin, CEO of Samsung's Shilla luxury hotel chain, and Lee Seo-hyun, who heads the Samsung Welfare Foundation.

Giving away the late chairman's vast collection of masterpieces could help smoothen the payment, because his family wouldn't need to pay taxes on donated artworks.

Britney Spears set to speak in court on her conservatorship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears has asked to address the court to talk about the conservatorship that has controlled her life and finances for 13 years, her attorney said Tuesday, and a judge scheduled a June date to hear from her.

Spears' court-appointed attorney, Samuel Ingham III, said in a hearing in Los Angeles Superior Court that she had asked to speak to the court soon, and agreed with Judge Brenda Penny on a June 23 date. He did not say what she would specifically like to say.

It would be the first known time in more than two years

that the 39-year-old pop star has spoken in court. The last time, on May 10, 2019, the courtroom was sealed. None of what she said became public.

The judge may also close the June hearing to the media and public. But Spears, through Ingham, has been pushing for more transparency in the court proceedings and documents of the conservatorship.

Spears did not take part in Tuesday's hearing, and she very rarely attends them.

As with nearly every Spears hearing, about 50 fans from the so-called #FreeBritney movement picketed outside the downtown courthouse.

Harry and Meghan to lead 'Vax Live' fundraising concert

Prince Harry and Meghan will serve as the campaign chairs of Global Citizen's effort to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to medical workers in the world's poorest countries.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will appear at "Vax Live: The Concert to Reunite the World," to be taped Sun-

day at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles and air on ABC, CBS, FOX, YouTube and iHeartMedia broadcast radio stations on May 8, Global Citizen, the anti-poverty nonprofit, announced Tuesday.

Harry and Meghan are also leading an effort to raise money for the vaccine-shar-

ing program COVAX, which hopes to produce \$19 billion to pay for the vaccines for medical workers.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will also appear during the broadcast as part of the "We Can Do This" initiative to increase confidence

in COVID-19 vaccines. French President Emmanuel Macron, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Croatian Prime Andrej Plenković will also appear at the concert, which will be hosted by Selena Gomez and headlined by Jennifer Lopez.

Burning Man cancels 2021 festival in northern Nevada desert

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Burning Man organizers announced Tuesday they are canceling this summer's annual counter-culture festival in the Nevada desert for the second year in a row because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The San Francisco-based group posted a video on its website that said there are too many uncertainties to resolve in time to hold the event as scheduled Aug. 26 to Sept. 3 in the Black Rock Desert 100 miles (160 kilometers)

north of Reno.

Burning Man CEO Marian Goodell said the "difficult decision" is "based on the best information available to us."

"We know the need for community has never been stronger. And building community is

what Burners do best. We also recognize the pandemic is not over," she said. "We have decided to focus our energy on building Black Rock City 2022."

The Reno Gazette Journal first reported the news Tuesday on its website.

Back to duty: UK queen returns to public tasks after funeral

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday held her first video meetings since the funeral of her husband, Prince Philip, pressing on with royal duties as she formally accepted the credentials of new ambassadors from the

Ivory Coast and Latvia.

The monarch, 95, held the virtual audiences from Windsor Castle, where she has lived during the COVID-19 pandemic, while the ambassadors were 20 miles (32 kilometers) away at Buckingham Palace

in central London.

The queen, who ended a two-week period of royal mourning on Friday, wore a floral dress and pearls for the occasion.

Videos from the events were the first released for public

view since Philip's funeral on April 17 at St. George's Chapel in Windsor. Strict social distancing rules forced the queen to sit alone during the service, a spectacle that touched many who had also suffered bereavement in the pandemic.

Receptionist hears doctor and staff ridicule patients

DEAR ABBY: I work as a receptionist in a small medical office. I love my job, but I cannot tolerate when my co-workers make fun of our patients. Sometimes it happens while the patients are still in the exam rooms, maybe within earshot. Even the doctor contributes to this crudeness.

Some examples: "Did you see the size of that guy's nose?" or, "What's with the color of her hair?" or, "He smells like he hasn't had a bath in weeks." This goes on throughout the day every day. Is there anything I can do or say to change this mindset? We have great patients.

AT A LOSS FOR WORDS

DEAR AT A LOSS: The person who's responsible for the lack of respect for the patients is your employer, the doctor. If this is happening sometimes within earshot of the patients, I am, frankly, shocked that he or she has a medical practice.

There is nothing you can do to change the culture in that environment. Because it upsets you—and I can certainly see why it would—you might be happier working for another doctor.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Tiffany" is 12. Her best friend, "Wendy," lives down the block. We are good friends

with her parents.

How do I put this: Wendy is a thief. She has no impulse control. When she comes over, she helps herself to whatever is lying around, mostly candy and trinkets. For this reason, we no longer allow friends into our children's rooms.

Recently, another item went missing, and my daughter spotted it at Wendy's house. I told her she should say something and take it back, but she is shy. I want to say something to the parents, but I'm afraid it will ruin our friendship. I don't think the mother knows her daughter does these things. Any ideas?

STICKY FINGERS

DEAR STICKY FINGERS: If the shoe was on the other foot and your daughter was stealing things from her friends' homes, wouldn't you want to know what was going on so you could deal with it? Talk to Wendy's mother! Tell her you don't want to spoil a friendship you treasure, but Wendy has a problem she needs to know about. If you ignore it, the problem will only escalate.

DEAR ABBY: Would you please settle an argument between my husband and me? One of us thinks it's OK to dry our everyday dishes with the same dish towel we clean our dog's bowl with. The bowl is first rinsed with soap and water then

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



wiped with the dish towel. One of us thinks it's disgusting. The other disagrees. Would you wash your dishes with said towel?
CURIOUS IN KETTERING, OHIO

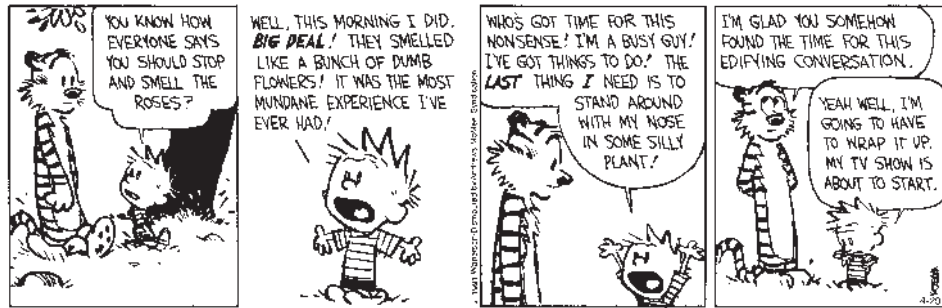
DEAR CURIOUS: Although the dish may be perfectly clean after being washed with soap and water, because of the "ick" factor, I sure wouldn't.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

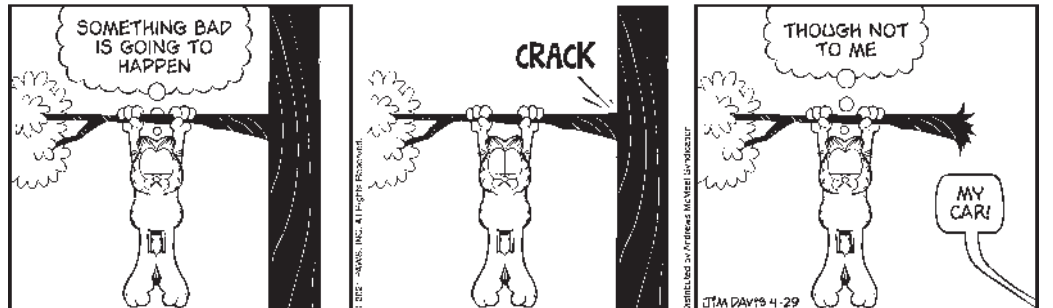
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

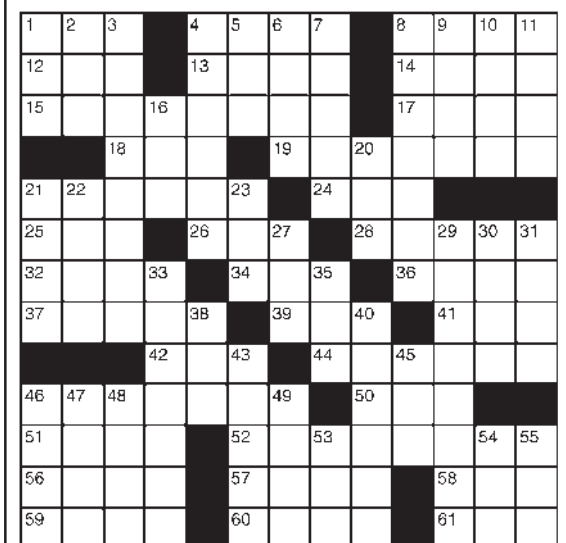
1 Sashimi
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14 Others
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15 Prairie
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32 School
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of "Still
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DOWN

1 "—
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2 Actor
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3 Imagined
4 Cooking
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7 Boat-
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erie
54 Author
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55 Superman
foe Luthor

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-29



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andre Agassi, 51; Uma Thurman, 51; Michelle Pfeiffer, 63; Jerry Seinfeld, 67.

Happy Birthday: Approach whatever you aspire to do with passion. Honing your skills to suit your pursuit specifically will simplify the steps it takes to reach your destination. Refuse to let temptation lead you astray or the decisions someone makes entice you to be a follower rather than a leader. An innovative idea launched with thought and moderation will bring high returns. Your numbers are 9, 13, 17, 24, 36, 41, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have a great plan, but trying to initiate what you want to do won't be easy. Take time to prepare, strategize and eliminate any foreseeable obstacles. Do things right the first time, and it will save you time and money. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to the truth, don't be gullible and put your energy to work for you. Take control, do the work yourself and take credit for your achievements. Don't limit what you can do. A disciplined, well-thought-out plan will pay off. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A steady pace will get you where you want to go. Realistic expectations will ease stress and prompt you to use your imagination to come up with unique ideas. Don't present what you have to offer until you have everything in place. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Think outside the box. Discuss your ideas with someone you enjoy working alongside.

A partnership may look inviting, but before you

get started, make sure you share the same objective. Ulterior motives will interfere with the outcome. Don't jeopardize a friendship. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stop worrying about what others do. Start channeling your energy into something worthwhile. Size up what you are trying to achieve, and put a plan in place that will encourage success. Let go of the past and move forward. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Live and learn. The research you do will pay off, and the experience you have will help you recognize when it's best to make a change. Surround yourself with people who are heading in a similar direction. Personal growth and self-improvement are favored. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't mince words. Say what's on your mind and move on. Arguing is a waste of time. Distancing yourself from negative people will ease stress and encourage you to gravitate toward people who bring out the best in you. ★★★★★

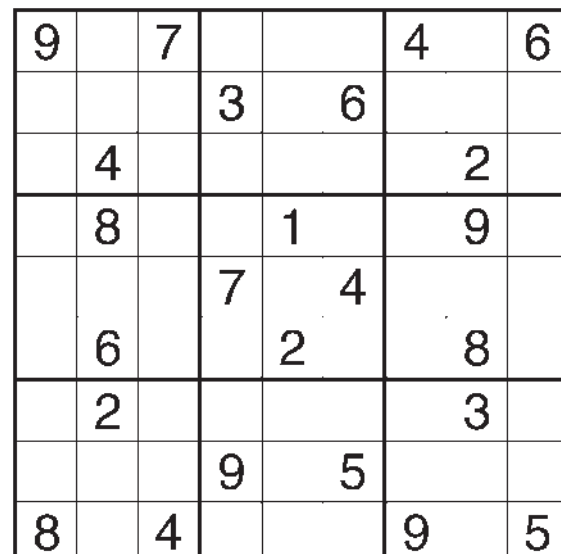
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't do something without getting something in return. Put a price tag on what you have to offer. If you devalue what you do, you will suffer a loss. Set the standard. Control whatever situation you face, and you will excel. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dive into something that interests you. Do your research, sign up for a seminar and expand your knowledge. Don't depend on others to do things for you or tell you the truth. Take charge and do things your way. ★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

4/29

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what's working for you and what isn't, and make adjustments. Focus on comfort and convenience and who can help you achieve your goals. Nurturing a meaningful relationship will enhance your life. Make unique plans for two. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let anyone tempt you with something that isn't in your best interest. A change someone makes will confuse you. When in doubt, be direct, get the facts and deal with matters swiftly. Don't give in to temptation. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have more options than you realize. Don't disregard an idea because it's unfamiliar. Take the plunge, and try something new. You'll discover something you enjoy doing. Control your emotions, and use your charm and intelligence to get ahead. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are determined, charismatic and innovative. You are expressive and perplexing. ★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

RUSH LIMBAUGH (1951-2021)

Solution: 9 letters

S R U O H E E R H T M I K E P
R E G R E B S S O R G P S A G
E Y T S A C D A O R B P I N S
N N M A O S O S H A N N I T Y
E A L O G V O C M I A K R E N
T C T N N D E R H O G U B I D
S I U O U O O R L S H S B I
I L W K I Y C N E T E R S E U C
L B O E A R O E E I E A S S A
E U H L E T T D D G G S R H T
G P S N N E H A O A A N E S I
E E O E T C E R P M U R T A O
N R L O K L A T Y T S E B Y N
D A V I D H N O O N Y E A R S
T E L E V I S I O N O I T A N

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Best, Broadcast, Bush, Cochlear, David, Drone, Economy, EIB, ESPN, Grossberger, Hannity, Highest, Kathryn, King, Kudos, Lead, Legend, Listeners, Lungs, Mass, Mike, Nation, Noon, Pain, Patriot, Republican, Rogers, Royals, Sean, Show, Sovereignty, Steyn, Syndication, Talent On Loan, Talk, Television, Three Hours, Trump, Trusted, Vote, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Angling

The NEW Treasury 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

Thunder snap 14-game skid with 119-115 win over Celtics



BOSTON (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder were on the verge of making some unpleasant history. Lu Dort made it his mission not to let that happen.

Dort scored 24 points, Darious Bazley added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and the Thunder snapped a 14-game skid with a 119-115 win over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

Isaiah Roby and Ty Jerome each finished with 15 points for the Thunder, who won their first game since March 31 against Toronto.

A 15th straight loss would have set a franchise record for Oklahoma City.

"I saw it today and I told Shai (Gilgeous-Alexander), 'Shai, we're winning today,'" Dort said. "That was my mindset just before the game — to do everything to win. The fact that we did it as a team was great."

The Thunder's recent swoon coincides with a foot injury that sidelined leading scorer Gilgeous-Alexander more than a month ago — they have won just two games since.

Oklahoma City committed 27 turnovers against Boston but went 13 of 30 from 3-point range and 28 of 36 from the free-throw line to beat back a late charge.

"It was a character test," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. "It was an opportunity to show who we are through the adversity. I came away impressed."

Jaylen Brown scored 39 points for the Celtics, who have lost four of five as they fight to maintain their position in the tight Eastern Conference playoff race. Payton Pritchard added a career-high 28 points.

The Celtics made the Thunder work in the closing minutes.



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Luguentz Dort, left, drives to the basket against Boston Celtics guard Evan Fournier, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, April 27, 2021, in Boston.

Stephen Curry scored 27 points with five more 3-pointers, extending his NBA record for 3-pointers in a month to 90 in April. He had passed James Harden's 82 in November 2019 on Sunday.

"Chasing Steph Curry around has got to be the hardest job in all of basketball, pro, college, international, you name it," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "The guy has been on just a tear over the last month. Trey Burke rose to the challenge, he just chased him all over the place and we had plenty of help."

Tim Hardaway Jr. added 13 points and seven rebounds off the bench as the Mavericks got 60 points from their reserves a night after losing 113-106 in Sacramento.

Just when the Warriors were determined to gain some momentum for the important stretch run, they delivered a dud and had their four-game home winning streak snapped.

"It was the perfect storm of everything going wrong tonight," Curry said.

Golden State didn't defend the perimeter, where the Mavericks shot 18 of 35 on 3-pointers.

Timberwolves 114, Rockets 107

In Houston, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 31 points and the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Houston Rockets 114-107 on Tuesday night for their third straight victory.

Anthony Edwards had 19 points and nine rebounds, and D'Angelo Russell added 15 points and seven assists for the Timberwolves, who have won three in a row for the first time since starting 3-0 in the 2019-20 season.

Minnesota won in Houston for the first time since Feb. 17, 2012, snapping a 14-game losing streak.

"It was a game that was going to come down to effort, getting an extra possession, good defense and getting your hand on a ball somehow," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said.

Kelly Olynyk had 28 points and nine rebounds for Houston. Christian Wood had 24 points and 18 rebounds, Jae'Sean Tate scored 20 points, and Kenyon Martin Jr. added 15 points off the bench.

The Rockets have lost five straight and 10 of their last 11. They're 4-37 since Feb. 4.

Oklahoma City had its 11-point lead erased in the third quarter before taking a 106-95 edge on a layup by Bazley with 2:25 left in the game.

It was 110-100 before the Celtics reeled off seven straight points. Boston applied pressure, but Bazley got in the lane for a dunk.

Boston cut it to 112-109 on a pair of free throws by Pritchard with 30.8 seconds remaining. The Celtics then fouled Theo Maledon, who hit two free throws.

Brown was fouled on a layup attempt and hit both free throws. Oklahoma City then beat Boston's full-court press and Roby dunked to close it out.

The Celtics played without All-Star forward Jayson Tatum (left ankle impingement), point guard Kemba Walker (strained left oblique) and big man Robert Williams (left

knee soreness).

Coach Brad Stevens said he's hopeful both Tatum and Williams will be able to return Wednesday when Boston hosts Charlotte. Walker will miss that game and maybe more — yet another hiccup for a team Stevens said has little room for error with 10 games left in the regular season.

"We've got to play with more of a sense of urgency," Brown said. "Tonight I feel like we didn't have the sense of urgency that we needed across the board. A team that has some young, talented players came ready to play. And we got beat."

Trail Blazers 133, Pacers 112

In Indianapolis, Anfernee Simons delivered the knockout flurry for Portland on Tuesday.

His teammates and coaches enjoyed watching it.

Simons made his first nine 3-pointers, finished with 27 points and helped the Portland Trail Blazers snap a season-high, five-game losing streak with a 133-112 rout at Indiana.

"After the first 3 I made in the second half, I knew it was going to be a good night for me," Simons said. "After that, I felt like it didn't matter who was contesting or how close they were, I knew it was going to go in."

They did — time after time.

Simons fell two 3s short of Damian Lillard's franchise record and became the first NBA player to open a game with nine consecutive 3s since Klay Thompson made 10 straight on Jan. 21, 2019. Simons wound up 9 of 10 from beyond the arc and 9 of 13 overall.

How good was he?

"The man of the hour, talk

to him," Lillard said when Simons showed up for his postgame Zoom call. "Nine 3s."

Lillard added 23 points and the Blazers shot a season-best 57.1% from beyond the arc.

Malcolm Brogdon and Oshae Brissett each finished with 18 points for the short-handed Pacers, who had a three-game winning streak end.

Bucks 114, Hornets 104

In Charlotte, N.C., Giannis Antetokounmpo wasn't about to let the Milwaukee Bucks get swept by the Charlotte Hornets this season.

Antetokounmpo had 29 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists, Brook Lopez added 22 points and the Bucks held off the Hornets 114-104 on Tuesday night to avoid losing all three matchups this season.

The Hornets (30-31) beat the Bucks by 12 at home in January, and then by eight on April 9 in Milwaukee.

Antetokounmpo seemed determined not to let that happen again.

The two-time NBA MVP played with aggression, finishing 11 of 19 from the field and 5 of 5 from the free throw line.

"We came out with focus knowing they had beat us twice," Antetokounmpo said. "We wanted to get one and not get swept. ... For sure everybody was locked in and extra motivated to win this game."

Antetokounmpo got fired up midway through the game when he thought Charlotte's P.J. Washington intentionally tried to trip him after Antetokounmpo stole the ball from him. Antetokounmpo pointed his finger at Washington — and some replay angles appeared to justify the Greek star's anger over the play.

Nets 116, Raptors 103

In Tampa, Fla., Kevin Durant scored seven of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, Jeff Green had 22 points and the Brooklyn Nets clinched a playoff spot Tuesday night by rallying late to beat the Toronto Raptors 116-103.

Trailing 90-84 early in the fourth period, Brooklyn used a game-turning 16-2 run to grab control. Later, Durant hit a 3-pointer with 1:47 remaining and glared at the Toronto bench after putting his team up 111-101.

Durant, who was playing his second game after returning from a thigh injury, added 10 rebounds in 33 minutes for his eighth double-double.

"Just all of the adversity that we've fought through this year with injuries, protocols, trade situations and guys being in and out of the lineup, I'm very proud of everybody in the organization top to bottom," Durant said.

Kyrie Irving finished with nine points, six rebounds and four assists. Seven other Nets scored in double figures on the night Brooklyn became the first Eastern Conference team to lock up a playoff spot.

Mavericks 133, Warriors 103

In San Francisco, to Steve Kerr, Dallas looked like a team in the playoffs while Golden State remained stuck in an exhibition game.

Luka Doncic scored 39 points and the short-handed Mavericks jumped on Golden State from the start to thump the Warriors 133-103 on Tuesday night.

"Biggest game of the year and it was over before it started," said Kerr, whose team trailed by as many as 43.

WVU's Derek Culver signs with agent, will enter NBA draft

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—All-Big 12 forward Derek Culver has decided to skip his senior season at West Virginia to enter the NBA draft.

Culver announced Monday night on Instagram that he has signed with an agent.

Culver was named to the all-Big 12 first team as a junior. The 6-foot-10 Culver was second on the Mountaineers with a scoring average of 14.3 and led the Big 12 with 9.4 rebounds per game. He had 11 double-doubles this past season, but none over his final seven games.

West Virginia's roster has seen an extensive makeover since the Mountaineers lost to

Syracuse in the second round of the NCAA Tournament to finish the season 19-10.

Coach Bob Huggins this month announced the signings of DePaul forward Pauly Paulicap, Florida International forward Dimon Carrigan, and Old Dominion guard Malik Curry as graduate transfers.

West Virginia forward Emmitt Matthews transferred to Washington, while guard Jordan McCabe transferred to UNLV. Guards Taz Sherman, Sean McNeil and Miles McBride have announced they will enter the NBA draft process and leave open the option of returning to school.

Guerrero's 3 homers, 7 RBIs lead Blue Jays over Nats



DUNEDIN, Fla.
(AP)—Vladimir Guerrero Jr. put on a power display that really impressed his Hall of Fame father.

Guerrero hit three home runs, including a grand slam and solo shot off Washington ace Max Scherzer, and had seven RBIs as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Nationals 9-5 on Tuesday night.

"I'm feeling very blessed right now," Guerrero said. "Hitting two homers against a legend like that, it's unbelievable what I'm feeling right now."

Scherzer (1-2) joined Ivan Nova as the only pitchers to have allowed a homer to both Guerrero Jr. and his slugging father.

"What a day for my boy," the senior Guerrero said on his Twitter account. "All the hard work is paying off."

The senior Guerrero also went deep twice against Scherzer, in 2010 with Texas and 2011 with Baltimore in his final season. He finished with 449 homers but never had a three-homer game.

"Looking at Vladdy, he has a good eye," Nationals manager Dave Martinez said. "He doesn't chase much as Senior. That's one big difference I've noticed already, he swings at strikes."

Guerrero's slam in the third put the Blue Jays ahead 4-3 and ended Scherzer's scoreless streak at 19 innings.

Guerrero made it 7-3 with his drive in the fifth and added a two-run, seventh-inning shot off Kyle Finnegan to complete his first three-homer game.

"He was locked in," Blue Jays shortstop Bo Bichette said. "I don't really think you can really explain how you feel on nights like that. It's probably just a blur and everything looks in slow motion."

Scherzer allowed seven runs — five earned — and eight hits over five innings. He had given up one earned run in 19 innings over his previous three starts.

"I did not pitch well tonight, that's obvious," Scherzer said. "I didn't execute."

Trea Turner, hit on the left forearm by a pitch Sunday, homered twice for the Nationals. It was his seventh multihomer game and second this year, with the other coming April 18 against Arizona.

Ryan Zimmerman got Washington within 7-5 on a two-run homer in the seventh.

Turner led off the game a home run and hit a solo drive in the third against Trent Thornton. The shortstop was hit by reliever Anthony Castro's pitch during the fifth but stayed in the game.

Castro entered in the fourth with the bases loaded and got an inning-ending double play from Victor Robles.

Yadiel Hernandez put Washington up 3-0 with a third-inning homer off reliever Tommy Milone (1-0).

Toronto used seven pitchers during a bullpen day.

It was the first game of the Blue Jays' second homestand at TD Ballpark, their spring training facility in



Toronto Blue Jays' Vladimir Guerrero Jr. follows through on a grand slam home run against the Washington Nationals during the third inning of a baseball game Thursday, April 27, 2021, in Dunedin, Fla.

Dunedin, Florida. Toronto is set to play at least through May at the park.

One reason to remain in Florida and not start the season at their Triple-A park in Buffalo, New York, which hosted games last season, was the weather. The game time temperature was 81 degrees under clear skies with a refreshing breeze blowing out at 10 mph.

"It's weird," Turner said. "The clubhouse and everything is actually really nice. I think they did a good job."

Rays 4, Athletics 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Brett Phillips hit a two-run homer in the sixth, helping send Oakland to its second loss in 16 games.

Joey Wendle's two-out single in the seventh tacked on another run for the Rays and ended Tampa Bay's 0-for-26 stretch with runners in scoring position.

Phillips' first homer of the season came off Frankie Montas (2-2). Jeffrey Springs (1-0) got the win in relief. Diego Castillo gave up a home run to Sean Murphy in the ninth before earning his fifth save.

Yankees 5, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Corey Kluber (1-2) won for the first time since April 20, 2019, to gain his first victory for Yankees, and Kyle Higashioka had two hits and homered again as he gains playing time from Gary Sanchez.

Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton also homered — the Yankees are 9-0 when they go deep in the same game, including the playoffs. New York stopped a four-game skid at Camden Yards and at 10-13 moved into a tie with the Orioles for last in the AL East.

Kluber allowed one run and six hits with five strikeouts over 6 2/3 innings.

Rookie Bruce Zimmermann (1-3) gave up nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Red Sox 2, Mets 1

In New York, Garrett Richards final-

ly found the strike zone and punched out 10, and Bobby Dalbec hit his first homer this season.

Richards (1-2) allowed a run and seven hits over seven innings, issuing no free passes one start after walking six.

Boston improved to an AL East-leading 15-9, including a major league-most 12 comeback victories. Matt Barnes fanned Pete Alonso and J.D. Davis during a 1-2-3 ninth for his fifth save. David Peterson (1-3) was the loser.

Indians 7, Twins 4

In Cleveland, Franmil Reyes homered twice, including a 452-foot drive that landed in the left-field bleachers about six rows in front of the scoreboard.

José Ramírez drove in two runs, including a first-inning homer that helped Cleveland to a win over its AL Central rival for the second straight night.

Byron Buxton homered with two outs in the eighth to chase Aaron Civale (4-0), but James Karinchak struck out Nelson Cruz and then worked the ninth for his second save.

Kenta Maeda (1-2) was charged with five runs, including three homers, in 5 2/3 innings.

Pirates 2, Royals 1

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Wilmer Difo delivered the go-ahead single off Scott Barlow in the seventh, and Pittsburgh stopped Kansas City's five-game winning streak.

Pittsburgh (12-11) has won three straight games and 11 of 16 since a 1-6 start, moving back above .500 for the first time since it was 1-0 in the opening week.

Jacob Stallings singled off Jakob Junis (1-1) leading off the seventh.

Duane Underwood (1-0) won in his second big league decision.

Braves 5, Cubs 0

In Atlanta, Ian Anderson (2-0) allowed one hit in seven innings, lowering his ERA to 2.48, and Ronald

Acuña Jr. hit a long home run off Trevor Williams (2-2) as Chicago lost its fourth straight.

A.J. Minter pitched a perfect eighth. Nico Hoerner's one-out single off Jacob Webb in the ninth was Chicago's second hit, but Webb struck out Willson Contreras and David Bote to end the game.

Cardinals 5, Phillies 2

In St. Louis, Carlos Martínez (1-4) allowed two runs—one earned—and two hits in 7 1/3 innings for his first win as a starter since 2018.

Paul Goldschmidt and Tommy Edman hit two-run doubles and Nolan Arenado doubled twice as St. Louis won for the fourth time in five games. Alex Reyes picked up his sixth save.

Zach Eflin (1-1) gave up five runs on nine hits over 6 2/3 innings. The Cardinals played without catcher Yadier Molina, who was placed on the 10-day injured list before the game with a sore tendon in his right foot.

Rangers 6, Angels 1

In Arlington, Texas, Joey Gallo ended the longest home run drought of his career at 20 games with the Texas slugger's hardest hit of the season, an early tiebreaking two-run shot, and Texas beat Los Angeles.

Nick Solak homered twice to take the Texas team lead with seven as the Rangers stopped a second four-game losing streak, their longest of the season.

Shohei Ohtani was 0 for 4 with a strikeout as the LA designated hitter.

Mike Foltyniewicz (1-3) allowed eight hits and one run in 5 1/3 innings for the right-hander's first win with the Rangers. He signed as a free agent in the offseason.

Solak had a pair of solo shots in his first career multihomer game, starting in the first against José Quintana (0-2). The LA left-hander allowed six hits and five runs in 3 1/3 innings. Solak connected again in the seventh.

Astros 2, Mariners 0

In Houston, Cristian Javier combined with two relievers on a two-hitter, and Houston beat Seattle.

Javier (3-0) allowed two hits in seven innings — both by Kyle Seager — struck out six and walked three. He extended his scoreless streak to 17 innings over three starts and lowered his ERA to 0.87.

Brooks Raley and Ryan Pressly each pitched a perfect inning, with Pressly getting his third save.

Yordan Álvarez had a sacrifice fly and Kyle Tucker an RBI single in a two-run fourth off Marco Gonzales (1-3), who allowed five hits in six innings with four strikeouts.

Brewers 5, Marlins 4

In Milwaukee, Adrian Houser pitched effectively into the sixth inning and hit his first career home run, leading Milwaukee past Miami.

Houser began the day 2 for 28 (.071) with 21 strikeouts in his career at the plate. With two outs and no one on base in the second, he lined the first pitch from Daniel Castano over the wall in center field.

Houser (2-2) allowed three runs on five hits in 5 2/3 innings, striking out seven and walking one.

Josh Hader pitched a perfect ninth for his fifth save in five chances.

Milwaukee took a 4-3 in the lead in the fifth on a triple by Keston Hiura and RBI double by Luis Urias off John Curtiss (2-1).

Tigers 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Miguel Cabrera and Niko Goodrum homered, José Ureña threw seven innings for his first win in two years, and Detroit overcame a season-high five errors to beat Chicago.

The Tigers matched their highest error total since they committed five against the White Sox in Chicago on Aug. 31, 2014.

Cabrera hit a solo drive in the first for his 489th home run. Goodrum put the Tigers on top 4-2 in the seventh with a two-run shot against Lucas Giolito (1-2) after Wilson Ramos lined a tying double on the previous pitch.

Ureña (1-3) gave up two runs — one earned — and seven hits. Gregory Soto worked the ninth for his third save.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 1

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly gave Arizona another strong pitching performance and Carson Kelly hit a two-run homer against San Diego.

The Diamondbacks have won seven of eight, improving to 12-11 for the season. It's the first time they've been above .500 this year.

Coming off a doubleheader sweep in Atlanta on Sunday in which Madison Bumgarner pitched a no-hitter that doesn't qualify for the record book and Zac Gallen threw a one-hitter in a pair of seven-inning shutouts, Merrill Kelly kept up the mound mastery.

Kelly (2-2) gave up one run and four hits in six innings. Carson Kelly's sixth homer of the season in the sixth made it 5-1 and chased Chris Paddack (1-3).

CNMI Star Wars Day Run registration still on

The 4th of May has been unofficially dubbed Star Wars Day by fans, with greetings of "May the 4th be With You" heard across the globe. Northern Mariana Athletics and the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Sports have taken up the call and created a "May The 4th Be With You, CNMI" run with several distances and categories to choose from and can be completed during the week surrounding Star Wars Day.

All proceeds will go to



youth athletic programs in the CNMI and on-line registration can be done at: <https://www.raceentry.com/races/may-the-4th-be-with-you-cnmi/2021/register>.

The live run will take place this year on May 2 at 6:30am. The start line is at American Memorial Park in front of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. The 5K course is an out-and-back loop to the top of the Peace Park while the one-mile course meanders through the park. The actual race will

tions he hopes one day will return when everything goes back to normal.

"All the swimmers have been keeping up their skills and improving stamina and we look forward to off-island competitions to start up again in the near future. Swimming is not included in the list of sports for the [Pacific] Mini Games, however with triathlon being one of the sports, the long-distance open ocean swim would be a good cross-over event to be added."

Sikkel also encouraged everyone to take up swimming to keep fit and safe around the water. Lest anyone forgets, Saipan is surrounded by water.

"For anyone wanting to swim, beside SSC there are several good swim programs around, check them out. Swimming is a great way to stay fit," he said.

SSC

From Page 20

said, is to have his swimmers back training at the Marpi pool.

"I am not sure what is happening with the Marpi pool. We had some great momentum getting the pool up and running right before COVID-19 and then it just petered out. We are still hopeful that one day we can use the Marpi pool again. A lot of our swimmers have never swam at the Marpi pool or can barely remember swimming at the pool. The older swimmers miss the consistency of swimming in a 50m pool, but the ocean is the new normal and they have adjusted very well," he said.

Marpi pool or not, Sikkell assured that SSC has not waned in training their swimmers for local and off-island competi-



Video grab shows "Jedi Masters" Galvin Deleon Guerrero, left, and Edward Dela Cruz in a social media promo for this Sunday's "May The 4th Be With You, CNMI" run.

be prizes for Best Costume in both youth and adult categories following the actual race.

For those not able to make the live event, there are also many virtual categories. Each of these categories are meant to be completed in a single day from April 30 to May 9. Categories include a 1 Mile Youngling (Under 16), 5K Padawan, 10K Jedi Knight, 21K Jedi Master, and 42K Jedi Grand Master. There is also a Rebel Alliance Team category where a four-person squad must complete a 5K run. Everyone competing virtually will also receive the commemorative, Glow-In-The-Dark Medal and the first 12 teams to register will receive a limited-edition Rebel Alliance Patch.

"So, join us in a few short days in a galaxy very, very close for the first ever, May The 4th Be With You, CNMI Run. As Yoda would say, 'Do or do not. There is no try... Your path you must decide,'" event coordinator Ron Snyder said. (PR)

have three categories: 5K Padawan, 5K Mandalorian, and 1 Mile Initiate.

A Padawan is a Force-sensitive person who undertakes one-on-one instruction with a Jedi Knight or Master outside the Jedi academy. Having passed the Initiate Trials, Padawan are given more responsibilities within the Jedi Order but were subject to the demands of their masters. Our Padawan compete over a

distance of 5K at the order of their Jedi masters. Jedi initiates were recruited by the Jedi Order from various species across the galaxy. Some of the Initiates came late into the Force and but still must learn to complete the distance of one mile while attuning themselves to its ways.

Anyone participating in the 5K Padawan or 1 Mile Initiate category will receive a special commemorative,

Glow-In-The-Dark Medal. The last category is the 5K Mandalorian event. This is a 5K race, following the same course as the Padawan run but in Star Wars costume. Like the Mandalorian from the series, those running in this category may not remove their costume and show their true form to anyone else. Those who successfully complete the course will receive a 3D Mandalorian Helmet Medal. There will also

PAIRE

From Page 20

Natalie Hill-Beyer delivered the final goal in the 49th minute.

MASTERS Matansa 5, Kanoa 0

Bunruang Brasuell carried Matansa to victory after scoring three of the team's winning points in the first 20 minutes with contribution from Wasana Gregory and Chirapan who made one goal each.

DIVISION A Shirley's FC 3, Southern United FC 3

Southern United gave unbeaten Shirley's a hard time in their match last Sunday with the latter meeting its first draw in its near-perfect season.

Shirley's took the lead early on in the match with Fiona Bu-

calig making the team's first goal in the 4th minute followed by another goal in the 9th minute from Jullianne Hall.

Southern United gained momentum mid game with Britany Wally landing both her goals in the 30th and 38th minute with a follow-up goal in the 39th minute from Pia Ngewakl.

In a last-ditch effort to turn the tables in Shirley's favor, Jerlyn Castillo landed the final goal of the match in the 48th minute.

Kanoa 8, Tan Holdings 2

Kanoa took a contrasting win in their match of Division A against TanHoldings.

Kanoa eased past their opponent behind Kelsey McClellan who score three goals with help from Paulynn Joyce with two goals.

Although TanHoldings

took the lead in the 4th minute behind Aubrey Castro, Kanoa's McClellan evened the score in the 7th minute. Lalaine Pagarao and Sue Ann Huevos gave Kanoa the lead with goals in the 15th and 16th minute, respectively.

McClellan then made back-to-back goals in the 27th and 29th minute followed by two consecutive goals from Joyce in the 30th and 39th minute.

Khristelle Itaas landed the team's final goal in the 45th minute followed by a goal from opposing team's Allyssya Angeles in the 50th minute.

DIVISION B Southern United 5, Kanoa 1

Southern United also hammered their opponent in their game last Sunday led by Keisha Deleon Guerrero who made it rain with four consec-

utive goals in the first 36 minutes, followed by a goal from Erin Frink in the 40th minute.

Kanoa's Lynzey Green managed to squeeze in a goal in the 43rd minute.

TanHoldings 5, MP United 1

TanHoldings' Neriah Nicole Lumbad carried the team to victory making 3 of the team's winning goals with help from Claire Barrozo and Julie Ann Capayas who contributed one goal apiece.

MP United's Moriah Cabral made the team's only goal in the 54th minute.

Meanwhile, in Division B, Shirley's remains undefeated and is closing in on the first finals seat with just two games left. With Shirley's' current standing, the team would need to win just one game to automatically advance to the finals.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Brooklyn	42	20	.677	—
Philadelphia	40	21	.656	1½
New York	34	28	.548	8
Boston	32	30	.516	10
Toronto	26	36	.419	16

Southeast Division

Atlanta	34	28	.548	—
Miami	32	30	.516	2
Charlotte	30	31	.492	3½
Washington	27	34	.443	6½
Orlando	18	43	.295	15½

Central Division

Milwaukee	38	23	.623	—
Indiana	29	32	.475	9
Chicago	26	35	.426	12
Cleveland	21	40	.344	17
Detroit	19	43	.306	19½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	34	27	.557	—
Memphis	31	29	.517	2½
San Antonio	31	29	.517	2½
New Orleans	27	34	.443	7
Houston	15	47	.242	19½

Northwest Division

x-Utah	44	17	.721	—
Denver	40	21	.656	4
Portland	33	28	.541	11
Oklahoma City	21	41	.339	23½
Minnesota	19	44	.302	26

Pacific Division

Phoenix	43	18	.705	—
L.A. Clippers	43	20	.683	1
L.A. Lakers	36	25	.590	7
Golden State	31	31	.500	12½
Sacramento	25	36	.410	18

x-clinched playoff spot

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York	9	9	.500	—
Atlanta	11	12	.478	½
Philadelphia	11	12	.478	½
Miami	10	13	.435	1½
Washington	8	12	.400	2

Central Division

Milwaukee	14	9	.609	—
Pittsburgh	12	11	.522	2
St. Louis	12	11	.522	2
Cincinnati	11	12	.478	3
Chicago	10	13	.435	4

West Division

Los Angeles	15	9	.625	—
San Francisco	15	9	.625	—
Arizona	12	11	.522	2½
San Diego	13	12	.520	2½
Colorado	9	14	.391	5½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Boston	15	9	.625	—
Tampa Bay	12	12	.500	3
Toronto	11	11	.500	3
Baltimore	10	13	.435	4½
New York	10	13	.435	4½

Central Division

Kansas City	14	8	.636	—
Chicago	12	10	.545	2
Cleveland	11	11	.500	3
Detroit	8	16	.333	7
Minnesota	7	15	.318	7

West Division

Oakland	15	9	.625	—
Seattle	13	11	.542	2
Houston	12	11	.522	2½
Los Angeles	11	11	.500	3
Texas	10	14	.417	5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHUNG

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ping Anne Lee in the semifinals, 6-4, 62. Prior to that, she advanced to the semis after getting a bye in the quarterfinals.

The runner-up gained access to the finals after outplaying Jeong Bin Park in the semifinals. Chae lost the first set, 4-6, before evening the playing field in the second set, 6-2. Chae officially took the first seat in the finals after a super tiebreak that she won 10-5. Park, made it to the semis after

an easy 6-2, 6-0 victory over Eun Ho Park.

Jeong Bin Park and Lee battled it out for third place with Lee prevailing with a 6-2, 6-4 victory.

Irin Chung also topped the girls U14 singles division after outlasting Hoo Wang in a super tiebreak.

Chung lost the first set, 2-6, before gaining momentum in the second set, 6-3. She took the win in an intense super tiebreaker, 11-9.

Chung gained the first finals seat after an easy 6-2, 6-3 semis

victory against doubles partner Savita Sikkell who prevailed over Anne Lee with a 6-0, 6-0 win in the quarter finals.

Hoo Wang dominated the bottom half of the tournament after a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Anna Kwon who eased past Isa Nishitani in the quarterfinals, 6-1, 6-0.

Sikkell placed third after beating Kwon, 6-4, 6-3.

In the girls U18 singles division, Serin Chung swept all her matches in the round-robin tournament. She edged Hye Jin Elliot, 6-4, 6-3, before moving

on to hammer Yebin Shin, 6-0, 6-0. Chung was named champion after defeating Sei Yul Hong, 6-0, 6-0.

Elliot took second place with her only loss to Chung. She defeated Shin, 6-0, 6-0, and moved on to dominate her match against Hong, 6-1, 6-0.

Hong landed third place after winning the match against Shin, 6-2, 6-2.

The 2021 TSL CNMI Junior Tennis Tournament is being conducted with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association.



**Thunder snap
14-game skid
with 119-115
win over Celtics**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**CNMI Star
Wars Day Run
registration
still on**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Paire 1 boosts finals bid

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club 1 inched closer to an outright finals appearance in the Masters Division following its victory last weekend in the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Chung, Sikkell take U14 doubles

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Irin Chung and Savita Sikkell won the girls U14 doubles championship after outlasting their opponents in a super tiebreaker as the 2021 Tan Siu Lin Foundation Junior Tennis Tournament concluded last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Chung and Sikkell survived the super tiebreaker against Anna Jieun Kwon and Hoo Wang to win their finals match last Saturday in the girls U14 doubles division of the two-weekend tourney.

The winning duo took an easy first set, 6-3 before losing the second, 5-7, leading to the super tiebreaker. Chung and Sikkell came out victorious, defeating their opponents 10-8.



In the girls U18 doubles division, Serin Chung and Hye Jin Elliot eased past their foes, Sei Hong and Yebin Shin,

with a 6-0, 6-0 victory during their match last weekend.

Hannah Chae and Jeong Bin Park took a similar route against Stella Choi and Elizabeth Culp in the girls U12 division of the final's tournament, taking an easy 6-1, 6-0 victory last Sunday.

Meanwhile, in the girls U12 singles division, Lina Tsukagoshi slipped past division No. 1, Hannah Chae, after an intense super tiebreaker.

Tsukagoshi prevailed in the first set, 6-2, but came up short in the second, 4-6. She eventually edged out Chae in the super tiebreaker, 10-7.

The crowned champion entered the finals after nip-

See CHUNG on Page 19



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Irin Chung returns the ball during her division's finals match of the 2021 Tan Siu Lin Foundation Junior Tennis Tournament that concluded last weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dove
Women's League

After besting its opponent last Sunday, Paire 1 is left with one final game before officially taking the first finals seat. With its current standing, Paire 1 needs at least a draw in their last game against Paire 2 to gain access to the finals.

In the match pitting Paire 1

Paire Football Club 1 inched closer to an outright finals appearance in the Masters Division following its victory last weekend in the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

against TanHoldings FC, the division's No. 1 team eased past its foe with a 4-1 victory behind Lindsay Davis who scored half of the team's winning goals.

TanHoldings drew first blood in the 16th minute of the match behind Tomoko Bogdan but eventually lost the lead when Paire 1's Elizabeth Culp scored a goal in the

20th minute.

Davis followed up with back-to-back goals in the 30th and 46th minute of the match.

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SSC members get used to new normal

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

For the Saipan Swim Club, the new normal doesn't only pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool entering its 31st month of being closed, SSC swimmers have to make do with the small pool at Green Flash Dive and the occasional dip in the ocean.

SSC coach Richard Sikkell said despite the closure of the Marpi pool the swim club continues to have a lot of new members. "We're going strong. Currently, we have 40-45 swimmers. SSC trains four days a week at Green Flash Dive for the younger swimmers, the older swimmers swim exclusively in the ocean," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said while swimming in the ocean comes with challenges such as current and low tide, it also gives his swimmers the opportunity to change the routine and has kept practices exciting.



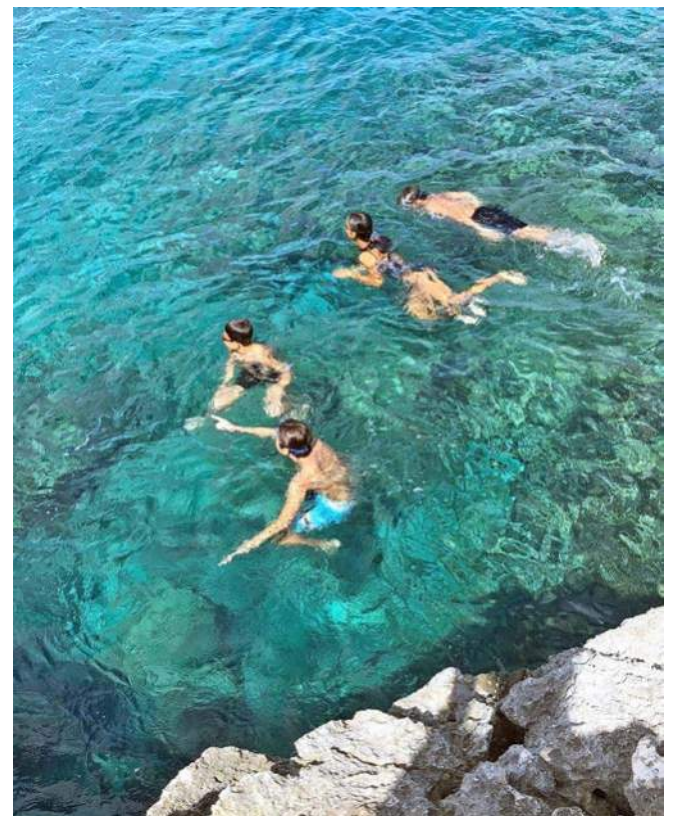
"Aside from the 50m back and forth, we do underwater workouts, long distances practices, laps around the tanks is a regular swim, and we also swam from the Garapan Fishing Base to Sugar Dock," he said.

Sikkell added that last weekend he and his swimmers swam from Eastbay to the Lao Lao Dive Beach and did some cliff-jumping before and after practice.

"Seeing how self-motivated the swimmers are motivates me to keep their practices fresh and change it up more. The swimmers end up swimming hard and have fun at the same time," he said.

And speaking of open water swims, Sikkell is planning to revive the Escape from Managaha by the end of May or early June if the tides cooperate. But the ultimate goal, he

See SSC on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club members swam from Eastbay to the Lao Lao Dive Beach and did some cliff-jumping before and after practice last weekend.